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# THE TIMES

No. 65,186

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

Calls to lift Terrorism Act resisted

## Howard may end system of exclusion

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is considering plans to drop the use of exclusion orders under which Northern Ireland residents can be banned from the British mainland.

Under increasing pressure from Dublin and the Opposition parties to respond to the cessation of paramilitary violence, the Home Secretary is also expected to lift some of the 58 banning orders in force. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, was subjected to such a ban until after the IRA ceasefire came into effect.

The exclusion powers have been bitterly resented because they have been seen as leaving banned residents "in internal exile" in Northern Ireland.

However, Mr Howard is expected to resist calls for a repeal or a substantial revision of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, of which the exclusion order provisions are part. Its powers to detain suspects for up to seven days without charge are also much opposed by civil liberties groups. The Home Secretary wants the Act in force because it can be used against terrorists with no connection with Northern Ireland.

With the Act due for its annual renewal in the Commons next month, Labour and the Liberal Democrats are pressing the Government for a pledge of a review of anti-terrorism legislation to take account of the changed climate in Northern Ireland. The Liberal Democrats indicated yesterday that they might join Labour in withholding support for the renewal of the Act unless ministers offered big



Howard: wants to keep anti-terrorism law

concessions. The Government is leaving a decision on its strategy until the last moment to take account of the latest developments in Ulster, but the Cabinet's committee on Northern Ireland will discuss the compromise plan to abandon the use of exclusion orders towards the end of this month.

Ministers hope that that would be enough to bring the Opposition parties on board and prevent a political row at Westminster that would be out of tune with the bipartisan approach to the peace process that has been so strongly welcomed by John Major.

London made plain yesterday that it regarded as premature a call from Dublin to dismantle the Act. Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, urged Britain to consider whether it needed to keep "legislation that has proved controversial".

His remarks came after the Dail had voted to lift the Irish Republic's state of emergency provisions. He said that repeal

or relaxation of the law would make "a considerable contribution to creating a climate conducive to agreement and political progress".

Unionists criticised Mr Spring. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionists' legal affairs spokesman, described Mr Spring's comments as premature after a bomb containing 11b of Semtex was found in Newry, Co Down, on Tuesday night. He added that Britain should not disarm while the terrorists still had their stockpiles of weapons.

The MP for Upper Bann accused the IRA of using blackmail after the Semtex bomb was discovered in a hold-all outside a Texas superstore. The police sealed off the area after receiving a telephone warning shortly before 9.30pm.

Army bomb-disposal experts carried out three controlled explosions on the device which contained, as well as the explosives, batteries, a timer and a detonator. The discovery came nearly three months after members of the IRA shot dead a postal worker in Newry in a raid that was disowned by the terrorist leadership.

The IRA denied yesterday that it had planted the bomb. But Mr Trimble said the IRA was the only organisation in Northern Ireland with access to Semtex and that the terrorists intended to use the bomb to force ministers to retreat over the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document.

Politics, page 9  
Leading article, page 19



The Princess of Wales curtsies as she shakes hands with Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday

## Princess's day of success at two courts

By GWEN ROBINSON  
IN TOKYO,  
AND ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN in moments of triumph, protocol takes precedence over pleasure, and nowhere more so than in Japan.

The Princess of Wales, clearly delighted at the out-of-court settlement over the controversial photographs of her exercising in a gym, curtsied deeply to Empress Michiko, while Emperor Akihito looked on. Wives of heirs to thrones, whether estranged or not, are clearly outranked by wives of heads of state.

A single telephone call to the British Embassy in Tokyo had ended a 15-month legal battle over covert photographs of the Princess of Wales exercising in a leotard. As the Princess prepared for the final day of her successful tour, an urgent message came from her lawyers. They had agreed a £1 million settlement with Mirror Group Newspapers. Her legal fees are estimated at £700,000 while the £300,000 earned by the pictures will go to the charity of her choice.

That afternoon, the Princess took tea with three generations of the Imperial Family, an event regarded as unusual in protocol-conscious Japan for having been arranged at short notice and during a visit that was not only unofficial but arranged at the her instigation.

She concluded her day with a visit to Japanese Red Cross headquarters to be briefed on the Kobe earthquake.

Her three days in Japan have been the most important overseas tour undertaken by the Princess since her separation. However, the sight of a member of the Royal Family curtsying low to the representatives of a former enemy is still likely to arouse anger.

No winners, page 5

## Court paras disciplined

Four paratroopers who were freed by a judge after a ferocious attack on a father of two have been disciplined by their commanding officer. Lance Corporals Stuart Baillie and Justin Woodcock were reduced to the rank of private and with Private Craig Harris and Private James Collins they were given formal warnings. Page 3

## Fears over demo victim's funeral

The mother of animal rights campaigner Jill Phipps said she was surprised when a canon of Coventry cathedral offered the building for her daughter's funeral. Nancy Phipps said she hoped it would not be a "circus for animal rights". Page 2

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## 'Dreadful humans' make minister prefer his car

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

STEVEN NORRIS, the minister in charge of London transport, came under attack last night after branding the users of public transport "dreadful human beings".

He told fellow MPs that cars were extraordinarily convenient. "You have your own company, your own temperature control, your own music and don't have to put up with dreadful human beings sitting alongside you," he said.

Opposition MPs rushed to condemn the minister. "This is a gross insult to public transport users," Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said. "It speaks volumes about the sincerity of ministers' claims to want to improve public transport."

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said: "These ministers live in a world of their own - chauffeur-driven cars, off-peak travel and guaranteed parking spaces."

Last night Mr Norris, 49, a

junior transport minister since 1992, said in a statement that his comments at the Commons Environment Select Committee had been taken out of context.

The statement added: "The plain fact is that given a choice people prefer to travel by car."

"I was making the point that even with investment in public transport it is difficult to compete with the lure of a private vehicle where you can shut yourself away from the



Mr Norris belts up in his ministerial car yesterday

outside world." Officials were at pains to emphasise last night that Mr Norris was a frequent user of public transport.

Mr Norris, who lists one of his recreations in *Who's Who* as "not walking", drives a Jaguar and owns shares in a Volkswagen-Audi dealership called Anthony Ince Ltd in Salisbury and Weston-super-Mare.

This was formerly known as Steve Norris Ltd, of which he was chairman.

## Yogic fliers buy former airbase

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Natural Law Party, which believes that yogic flying can cure the ills of modern society, has bought a former United States Air Force base from the Ministry of Defence.

The group, which already owns Mentmore Towers in Buckinghamshire, has the backing of the local council for its plans to turn the 1,000-acre site, complete with runway, into a university with 4,000 students.

The proposed campus at Bentwaters, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, will offer degree courses in areas such as management, technology, public administration, science and humanities.

It will be part of the Maharishi University of Natural Law at Mentmore and also offers the Natural Law-based programmes of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. These centre on the belief that stress is the root of all evil and that through transcendental meditation people can master yogic flying in which the body first moves up and down, then hovers and

finally performs acrobatics in mid-air.

At the European elections last year, the Natural Law Party, the political wing of the Maharishi Foundation, said that the positive energy created by 7,000 yogic fliers would calm even Tory divisions over the future of the Community. In the last general election its candidates stood for every seat in England.

But the Defence Ministry's decision to sell the site, which housed 13,000 American military personnel, their families and local people until two years ago, brought scornful protests from Labour last night.

Jamie Cann, Labour MP for Ipswich, accused the ministry of failing to take into account the national interest in disposing of the site, which could be an economic asset to the area. A Defence Ministry spokesman said that where there was no longer a use for defence land, the aim was to dispose of it to the best advantage of the taxpayer.

## Queen's English rings no bells on US phones

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE American telephone system boasts the most sophisticated technology in the world - unless the caller happens to be British.

State-of-the-art voice-recognition computers in use across the country routinely discriminate against people who speak with a British accent.

"If it's a very strong British accent, it's less likely to understand, especially a word like 'operator', which is one of the most difficult words in the system."

Bob Ford, a spokesman for AT&T Bell Laboratories, said.

The voice-recognition system, developed by the company in New Jersey, answers calls that would normally require an operator. A recorded voice asks callers how they would like to pay, with the instruction: "Please say 'collect', 'calling card', 'third number', 'person-to-person' or 'operator'."

However, a British caller has, for instance, to repeat the word "operator" several times in a mock American accent - something like "ah-per-aid-er" - before eliciting a response.

AT&T, which developed the system three years ago and sells it to regional telephone companies, says the voice-recognition technology translated thousands of voices into digitised form to come up with an "average" voice pattern.

In the last year, the automatic answering system has fielded more than a billion calls and been able to understand more than 90 per cent of them.

"The templates of speech which we got from literally thousands of voices to set this system up were all American

speakers. American English, not British English," said Mr Ford. "We have to use what we have got, which is the American idiom. It's finally an American system because that's where our customers are."

He said that callers who speak English with other non-American accents may also fall victim to the technology, as might people with speech impediments or heavy colds.

Mr Ford holds out hope that continuing research will increase the computers' ability to recognise those who hail from across the Atlantic.

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# MPs sharpen their tongues for Insolence Week



Fabricant fresh breath

IT WAS 2.30. Trade and Industry Questions were under way, and MPs were back from lunch. Michael Fabricant (C) opened his mouth wide and administered two quick bursts of spray-in breath-freshener as the television cameras whirled. Perhaps Mr Fabricant has caught the Thatcherite spirit and been sponsored by *Gold Spot* to send out subliminal plugs from the very heart of the legislature.

And for Fabricant it does seem to work. The MP for Mid Staffs is never anything but bright and breezy, so far as we know, nothing offensive or stale has ever escaped his lips. He shuns the toxic

soundbites in which other backbenchers revel.

If only the same were true of the others! Yesterday Madam Speaker reached such a pitch of despair at the abuse which passes for parliamentary debate that she read out a Statement from the Chair. She was, she said, dismayed at how English was being "manipulated across the Chamber". Couldn't Members "make use of the richness of the language to select elegant phrases" to express their meaning?

Some hope. On Tuesday Ann Widdecombe, an Employment Minister, had told Labour's former actress, Glenda Jackson, that she was sure Ms Jackson had never



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

sought any job on the basis of her looks. Not many minutes later the Prime Minister had called the Leader of the Opposition a dimwit. Yesterday Nigel Griffiths, a Labour spokesman, called Charles Wardle, a DTI minister, a nitwit.

Meanwhile Steve Norris, the Transport Minister, shudders at public transport, where we must rub shoulders with the "dreadful human beings" who travel by bus. It seems the printer's devil at *Hansard* was president last

Friday. A Question about national insurance was headlined: "National Insolence (sic) Fund". At Westminster, this is shaping up as National Insolence Week.

As ever, Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) led the way. This 70-year-old dame, Westminster's Hell's Granny, specialises in wrecking Labour backbenchers' questions by shrieking "Too long!" "Sit down!" "No! Oh no!" — or (as yesterday) all three. Jim Marshall (Lab, Leicester S) was beaten up by

the Dame when he asked about mergers of electricity companies. Labour's Robert Wareing (Liverpool W Derby) was mauled when Dame Elaine, wishing to show she disputed his sentiments and making use of the richness of the language to select an elegant phrase, chose "Rubbish!"

Worse, one of the DTI ministers appeared to have been fighting. Ian Taylor had a gash on the top of the bald patch on his head.

There are three bald ministers at the DTI. The proud-maned Heseltine has decreed "Let me have men about me that are bald," for Ian Taylor, Roger Evans and Mr Wardle — a sort of Tweedledum.

Tweedledee and Humpty Dumpty of a trio — are distinguishable only by those who can spot the slight variations in the positioning of their respective bald patches. Yesterday it was easier, due to Mr Taylor's accident.

It occurred on Tuesday in Brussels. "There I was," the minister told MPs yesterday, "face to face with Commissioner Van Miert, fighting for Britain." Miss Boothroyd looked alarmed, the Press corps interested.

How disappointing, then, that my telephone call to Mr Taylor's office should reveal that the gash was inflicted not by a panicking Belgian, but by the door of Mr Taylor's ministerial limousine.

## Mandatory life for murder too rigid, Lords tell inquiry

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH pressure was put on the Government to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder last night with calls for its abolition from Lord Lane, a former Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Windlesham, a former Home Office Minister.

Lord Windlesham, who chaired The Parole Board in the 1980s, told MPs on the Home Affairs Committee that the controversy over Private Lee Clegg — serving life after he shot and killed a joyrider in Northern Ireland — would not have arisen if the courts had been free to impose a sentence other than life.

He said life imprisonment should be reserved for the most serious offences. "It would become the most severe penalty for the most grave offences known to the criminal law, but would not be applied where clearly inappropriate."

Lord Windlesham added that abolishing the mandatory sentence would "resolve a great many of the now indelible anomalies... which create the sort of situation we have in the recent case of Private Clegg".

Lord Lane, who was Lord Chief Justice from 1980 to 1992,

backed the proposals of a House of Lords select committee on murder in 1989, rejected by the Government, that would have allowed Private Clegg a defence that he acted in self defence, reducing the charge to manslaughter.

Lord Lane said that the mandatory life sentence was too rigid to be applied to the whole range of different kinds of murders committed. It should be reserved for the "truly heinous murders" and in such cases, such a sentence could be 30 to 40 years and would mean life. At present it was applied to a whole range of murders from the most wicked crimes to mercy-killing or someone acting in the heat of the moment.

Lord Lane added that the public knew that a sentence of life rarely meant that "it is a travesty to say, 'You will go to prison for life, when everyone knows they will not go to prison for life'."

"By all means keep it for the really wicked murders and mean it, and then the public will start to realise that life in prison means life in prison."

The committee of MPs were opening an inquiry into mandatory life sentences that was

agreed before the furore over the jailing of Private Clegg and is separate from that ordered by the Home Secretary from officials.

Both men criticised the present arrangements whereby the length of a life sentence was determined by the executive behind closed doors and not by the judiciary.

Lord Lane said the length of a life sentence was "all done in private, when the junior minister discusses it with members of the Civil Service, the Home Office". Judges, victims, their relatives or defendants did not know what was decided or why.

Lord Windlesham said the system of life sentences would be stronger for abolishing the mandatory sentence and giving judges the discretion to impose the right sentence for the crime.

There had been a gradual diminution of the powers of the executive over sentencing. "I am fairly confident we will see more of this whittling away, this gradual erosion of executive power over sentencing and the last and most important step, which I believe will come, is the mandatory life sentence."



Nancy Phipps says Canon Oestreicher offered Coventry Cathedral for the funeral

## Mother surprised at veal woman's funeral honour

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE mother of dead animal rights campaigner Jill Phipps said yesterday she was surprised when a canon of Coventry Cathedral offered her the building for her daughter's funeral.

Nancy Phipps, who said her family and daughter were not Christian, said she was concerned that the funeral should not be turned into a "dress for animal

rights". Mrs Phipps said: "Canon [Paul] Oestreicher offered the cathedral. He came. He offered and we did not expect it. We would never think of the cathedral."

"We told him we were not religious in the accepted Christian term, just spiritual. Jill did not like Christianity with all the trappings and humbug. She was spiritual more than Christian."

Jill, 31, of Coronation Road, Hillfields, fell under the wheels of a veal lorry as she tried to stop it pulling into Coventry Airport last week.

Canon Oestreicher, a friend of former hostage Terry Waite and with a long record as a peace campaigner, denied any approach to the family.

"No, I didn't make any offer to anyone. I really don't want to make any comment," he said.

The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, spokesman for the Coventry diocese, said Canon Oestreicher offered the cathedral on the understanding that the offer would be confirmed by Provost John Petty.

The original idea of using the cathedral for the funeral came up in the confusion and grief of a pastoral visit to the Phipps household, when Canon Oestreicher was with the local vicar, the Rev David

Berryman. It became clear that the numbers expected at the funeral might exceed the capacities of the parish church of St Peter's, Hillfields.

Mrs Phipps said: "It is not going to be a circus for animal rights, we can promise that. It's going to be a mark of respect for Jill."

Canon Oestreicher was criticised as a "radical" by the Archbishop of York, the Ven George Austin. He said he thought it right that Miss Phipps have a funeral service, whether she was a Christian or not, but opposed any steps to turn a funeral into a demonstration.



Jill Phipps who died under a veal lorry

## Waldegrave attacks animal protests

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND EMMA WILKINS

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, the Agriculture Minister, launched a strong attack on animal rights activists yesterday saying that their protests had gone beyond what was acceptable in a democracy.

He pleaded farmers at their annual conference in London by telling them that the trade in live animals was legal and would remain so. The task ahead was to improve the conditions in which animals were transported and reared throughout Europe. Speaking afterwards, Mr Waldegrave said: "The protests have done their job. The country is united in seeking changes to Euro-

pean law. If the next stage is to say 'We don't care what you say about the law, we are still going to interrupt a legal trade', then that goes beyond what is acceptable in a democracy."

Mr Waldegrave disclosed that he is to meet his French counterpart, Jean Puech, in London on Monday to discuss animal welfare and the phasing out of "veal crates".

A lorry carrying 420 sheep for live export to Belgium crashed near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday, killing more than 180 animals and leaving a woman/cab passenger and a four-year-old boy seriously injured.

## Speaker tells MPs to choose elegance not abuse

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR'S description of Tony Blair as "a dimwit" earned a severe rebuke from Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker yesterday. MPs have become far too sloppy and uncouth when speaking in the House, she said.

Miss Boothroyd wants them to watch their language after Mr Major's "dimwit" on Tuesday was followed by a "nitwit" and then Labour's Tony Banks employed an unprintable American epithet to describe Steven Norris, a Transport Minister, yesterday.

An angry Miss Boothroyd declared that name-calling and spiteful invective did not enhance the Commons in the eyes of voters. Although she did not cite any specific cases, or name Mr Major, she warned errant MPs: "There are some honourable and right honourable Members who seem to think that it is rather smart or clever to manipulate the English language in making references to other 'Members' across the floor of this House."

To a hushed House she lectured: "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language. I do hope that in future interventions all Members will bear that in mind and we shall make use of the richness of the English language to select elegant phrases that express their meaning without causing offence to others."

Mr Major lost his temper with the Labour leader on Tuesday at Question Time when he was repeatedly pressed to say whether he supported a single European currency. Mr Major's reply — "Frankly, only a dimwit would ask me to" — marked a new level of abuse between the two leaders.

A century ago whimsical insults were forbidden. This century MPs have been addressed in the Chamber as "you little twerps" or "amiable dumb-bells" or "hamsters". But "liar" remains an unparliamentary term as do several more scatological insults which have also been tried.

One may call a group of MPs hypocrites and frauds and accuse them of bribery, hypocrisy and even treachery, but never of being drunk according to *Nothing Good Will Ever Come Of It*, an anthology of MPs' language by Phil Mason.

To outsiders the Speaker's test seems arbitrary, but Miss Boothroyd has firm ideas on what she believes constitutes an elegant phrase. "Telling 'porkies' you say, I think we will not have that word," she rebuked one MP in 1992.

But she will allow "bunk", "humbug" and "fatheads" and Mr Banks once got away with calling Terry Dickson "an inflated pig's bladder on a stick."

Mr Major had to apologise for his colourful language in the House in November 1993 when he accused John Smith, the former Labour leader, of being "odious" and later wrote a note to apologise.

## Soldier jailed for shooting mourners

A soldier was jailed for ten years yesterday for the attempted murder of a leading republican in Belfast.

Trooper Andrew Clarke, of the 9th/12th Lancers, fired 20 shots at mourners, injuring Eddie Copeland, outside the home of Thomas Begley days after the IRA terrorist had blown himself up in a bomb attack on the Shankill Road, Belfast Crown Court was told.

In interviews with police Clarke, 27, from Merseyside, said he was frustrated at seeing suspected terrorists walking freely and taunting soldiers. Lord Justice Carswell told Clarke he had abused the standards required of a soldier.

## Union fined

The postal workers union has been fined £7,500 and ordered to pay costs of about £100,000 for contempt of court. The Communication Workers Union was held by Mr Justice Drake in the High Court to be responsible for an unofficial strike by thousands of workers in London last month.

## Rail axe delay

Hopes were raised that the loss-making rail sleeper from London to Fort William in the west Highlands might be reprieved after Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the junior Scottish Office minister, told MPs that there would be full consultation with local communities before the service could be axed.

## £100,000 necklace

An antique pearl and diamond necklace which belonged to Empress Josephine's grand-daughter sold for £111,500, three times the estimate, at Christie's in London yesterday. The necklace was sold with its original inventory card listing it as having been owned by Queen Josephina of Sweden.

## Stewart may sue

Allan Stewart, who resigned as a Scottish Office minister after allegedly brandishing a pickaxe, may sue over media reports of a fracas with motorway protesters. He has sought legal advice over reports of his encounter with protesters campaigning against the M77 motorway extension in Glasgow.

## Avon's swansong

An eleven-hour attempt by Avon County Council to halt local authority changes that will bring about its abolition failed in the High Court. Counsel for Avon said that inadequate time had been given for consultation. The draft order for the changes will, as planned, be placed before Parliament today.

## Police hold two

Police hunting two men who killed a pensioner by running him over as they took his car from outside his home have made two arrests. Robert Incecliffe, 77, of Harlepool, died from a fractured skull a day after he was struck by his own car last weekend. The two men held are aged 19 and 20.

## Smell of success

Luciano Pavarotti, the opera singer, is launching his own aftershave, a range of bath products and a perfume for women in April to coincide with two concerts, an album and a new opera in Britain. The perfume, which will be sold at Harrods, is described as "an orchestration of emotions".

An agency report (February 6) wrongly stated that the Royal Oak hotel, Winsford, Somerset, had been destroyed by fire. In fact, only part of the accommodation was damaged, and the hotel will be operational again in the near future.

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## New Clause Four 'practical'

JACK STRAW, one of Labour's leading modernisers, has clashed with opponents of Tony Blair's attempts to rewrite Clause Four (Jill Sherman writes).

Mr Straw, the first Shadow Cabinet Minister to suggest that the party's commitment to nationalisation be ditched, argued that the Labour leader would become more accountable to his party with "a believable" Clause Four.

Speaking in support of Mr

Blair at a debate held by the Fabian Society last night, Mr Straw said that the only function of the clause had been to feed the culture of betrayal "with a less than properly accountable leadership on the one side, and activists crying 'treachery' on the other". He said: "Get a practical, believable Clause Four and the leadership will become more answerable to the movement, not less."

Mr Straw claimed that the debate was turning in the leader's favour with party members reacting badly to efforts by those opposing change to end the debate.

He argued that there was nothing in the present Clause Four about democracy, empowerment, opportunity, freedom, equality and rights. "Let's have the confidence to say what we mean, mean what we say, to give the British people the confidence to elect a Labour government," he said.

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Audiences welcome tough questioning

# Paxman named as rudest interviewer in BBC survey

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY PAXMAN, presenter of *Newsnight*, BBC's current affairs programme, is the rudest interviewer in the BBC, according to a corporation survey.

The survey, commissioned by a working group of BBC editors last year, showed that 61 per cent of people found Mr Paxman to be less polite than he should be. John Humphrys, a presenter on *Radio 4's Today* programme, was considered too discourteous by 37 per cent of respondents, and Sir David Frost, presenter of the BBC's Sunday morning programme *Breakfast with Frost*, by 35 per cent.

The survey, which was undertaken after complaints from BBC governors about the hectoring tone of some of the corporation's senior journalists, also showed, however, that courtesy was not the most pressing concern of BBC audiences. While 13 per cent of listeners and viewers said they were annoyed by rude interviewers, 36 per cent were dissatisfied that questioners let politicians get away with not giving full answers.

The results showed that Mr Paxman was rated an outstandingly good interviewer by 18 per cent of respondents. Only James Naughtie, another *Today* presenter, was valued more highly, with 19 per cent describing him as outstanding. Sue MacGregor,



Paxman: 18 per cent rate him as outstanding

also from the *Today* programme, who was considered by far the most polite interviewer, was considered outstandingly good by 11 per cent.

Senior BBC journalists say that the survey, carried out nearly a year ago, undermines a speech given last week by John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, in which he accused political interviewers of becoming increasingly self-important, overbearing and rude. Many senior BBC staff were infuriated by the speech, but most are reluctant to comment on it openly.

Jenny Abramsky, controller of *Radio 5 Live*, yesterday broke the silence by defending presenters on her network against the charges, claiming they were extremely polite. "They are not confrontational,

they are challenging," she said. "I'm quite confident that [Mr Birt] was not referring to anyone on our network." Ms Abramsky, who launched the 24-hour news and sport network last year, said she felt her reporters measured up well to Mr Birt's standards.

But she rejected his view that journalists should never report speculation or gossip. In the proper context, such reporting was valid. "We always try to look at what is going on. If there is gossip going around Westminster we would try to cover it and we do cover it," Ms Abramsky said. Ms Abramsky yesterday announced new programmes for *Radio 5 Live*, including a month-long series on crime. Running from May 15 to June 11, *Laying Down the Law* will feature a live broadcast from inside a high-security prison.

The season will also include a programme about how juries operate. Ms Abramsky said she was aware that jurors were bound by law not to discuss any case they had served on but refused to say whether the programme contained interviews with jurors. She also announced that *The Financial World Tonight*, whose audience has fallen from 300,000 to 100,000 since it was transferred from *Radio 4* to *Radio 5 Live* last year, would be moved from 11.45pm to 11.15pm in an attempt to win back listeners.

Janet Daley, page 18

## A QUESTION OF MICROPHONE MANNERS

Tables from the confidential BBC Performance Review, based on a telephone survey.

1. How often, in your opinion, is the interviewer less polite than s/he should be when interviewing politicians?

	Frost	Paxman	Snow	Humphrys	MacGregor	Naughtie
Most times	1	7	2	2	1	2
Often	4	12	3	6	1	2
Occasionally	30	42	25	29	17	28
Total	35	61	30	37	19	32

2. Overall, how good a job would you say the interviewer makes of interviewing politicians?

	Frost	Paxman	Snow	Humphrys	MacGregor	Naughtie
Outstandingly good	18	18	8	16	11	19
Very good	25	48	48	61	53	53
Fairly good	55	27	41	20	31	25
Total	93	93	96	97	95	97



The Prince of Wales meeting members of the Miles Plating Community Assembly in Manchester yesterday

# Prince extols industry's heroes

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday extolled the growing readiness of business and industry to play a social role in the community and called for more partnerships to encourage local enterprise.

The Prince, who was presenting the 1994 Community Enterprise awards at the Granada television studios in Manchester, said the winners had shown themselves to be determined to make a difference to the quality of life in areas where it could frequently be difficult and depressing. They were an example of practical idealism.

"Companies will benefit in the long term from being

active in the local community by working in partnership to improve educational standards, the economic prospects of inner cities and through contributing to making towns and cities safer, healthier and more enterprising," the Prince said. He applauded "the unsung heroes" whose work had transformed areas of inner-city dereliction.

For the idea to spread, greater publicity was needed, and more ways had to be found of providing practical help in financing community projects, he said. He was particularly pleased to learn that Business in the Community, which organised the



awards, had recently launched a £3 million investment fund to provide loans for new industries, supported by several large companies including NatWest bank, Marks and Spencer and United Biscuits.

Entrepreneurs needed partners to help them to

achieve their vision, especially business partners. "By bringing business into these partnerships great things are going to be achieved for young people," he said. "That is good for individuals, good for communities and good for all our futures as a whole."

The awards are sponsored by The Times and the accountants Touche Ross. The top award, named after the late Charles Douglas-Home, former Editor of The Times, was presented to Bernard Melvin, chairman of the Miles Plating Community Assembly, from central Manchester, which runs a charitable trust, two new businesses, ten social projects and employment schemes.

# C4 teaches Dorrell a lesson with six of the best

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

CHANNEL 4 has presented Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, with videos of six of its biggest box-office hits, a week after the minister said he could not remember his last visit to the cinema.

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said he hoped that by watching the Channel 4-funded films, including *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the forthcoming release *The Madness of King George*, Mr Dorrell, who has responsibility for film, could be persuaded to scrap broadcasting regulations that oblige the station to pay an annual levy worth millions of pounds to ITV.

Mr Grade said that if Channel 4 were allowed to keep the money, it could double its film production to around 24 films a year or to make an extra 400 hours of new television programming. The investment would create 1,000 jobs. "I assume that Mr Dorrell does not watch television because he certainly does not go to the cinema or to the opera. I don't know if he has ever heard of these films, but we shall see," Mr Grade said.

His remarks follow the first official confirmation yesterday by the Independent Television Commission that the levy Channel 4 will have to pay ITV for 1994 - based on advertising revenue - is £57.3 million, an increase of 50 per cent on last year's payment of £38.2 million.

Rather than invest the money in new programmes, ITV companies, such as Central Television, were using it to top-up bonus payments to senior executives and dividends for shareholders, Mr Grade said. "ITV is on the biggest bonanza in history. They have a licence to take money from Channel 4 - it's Alice in Wonderland accounting," he added.

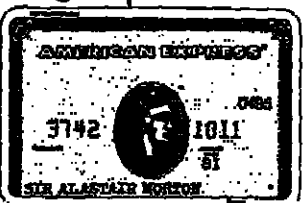
Mr Dorrell has already stated that he is not prepared to reconsider the levy on Channel 4 until the 1990 Broadcasting Act comes up for review in 1997. "I'm sure he will enjoy watching the films, though," a department spokesman added.

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# New test for Gulf War veterans

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GULF War veterans who claim to be suffering a debilitating disease after being given injections to counter anthrax and plague are to have their cases assessed by the Royal College of Physicians, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, announced yesterday that the Royal College would carry out an independent clinical audit.

After medical examinations of 78 of the 233 people referred so far to the Ministry of Defence, Mr Soames said there was no scientific or medical evidence to show that the veterans were suffering from "Gulf War syndrome".

Wing Commander Bill Coker, the physician who has examined the veterans, told the Commons Defence Committee last week that he had found nothing that might link their illnesses to vaccines given to soldiers facing the threat of chemical and biological warfare attacks.

However, with 500 Gulf War veterans now claiming to be suffering from swollen joints, memory loss and dizziness, the MoD wants an independent assessment. An MoD source said: "The veterans seem to be under the impression that the ministry is involved in some sort of cover-

up. We hope that by offering an independent assessment they will be reassured that everything is being done."

Mr Soames also announced that when the first 100 cases had been examined by Wg Cdr Coker, his preliminary findings would be sent to the *British Medical Journal* for publication. In a Commons written answer, Mr Soames urged Gulf War veterans concerned about their health to come forward.

Last night Vivien Lane, an RAF doctor who served in the Gulf and is a member of the Gulf Veterans Association, said the announcement was "a step forward".



Soames: wants doctor's findings published

# Assaulted teacher awarded £160,000

By PAUL WILKINSON

A TEACHER has been awarded almost £160,000 compensation for injuries and trauma caused in an assault by a teenage pupil. The size of the award reflects the premature ending by 12 years of the teacher's career because of the effects of the attack.

It is unlikely to be matched in future because of changes in the way compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is calculated. Projected losses of earnings are no longer taken into account.

The incident happened four years ago when the master, now 52, went to the aid of a woman colleague who was being assaulted by a teenager in her class at a young offenders' institute on Tyneside. The mathematics teacher, who has not been named, was injured when the pupil turned on him during the scuffle.

Gerry Bartlett, legal officer for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "He's a very angry, bitter man. He was walking along the corridor when he saw a 16-year-old male physically and verbally harassing a female colleague and he intervened to prevent injury being caused. During

that intervention his arm was very severely injured, requiring surgery and he lost the use of it. There was also a degree of post-traumatic stress which made it very difficult for him to return to the classroom."

Mr Bartlett said the size of the award reflected the injury, the stress he had been put through and the difference between his pension for retiring at 48 and what it would have been if he had stayed teaching until he was 60. "I think it was quite the worst case we have ever dealt with. It was a very important case for us, but it was outrageous that it took so long to come to a conclusion."

Tony Coleman, regional organiser for the association, who presented the case, said: "While money can never compensate him for the loss of his career, the award obtained for him by the union will supplement his ill-health retirement pension and help maintain his standard of living."

The teacher involved, who is understood to be married with a family, had been in the profession for 24 years. He was employed by the local education authority, although the institution where he was working was run by social services.

# Tenants fail Chuzzlewit house test

THE National Trust has been forced to re-advertise the £6,000-a-year tenancy of a house used in the television series *Martin Chuzzlewit*. More than 100 people wanting to live in the spacious Georgian townhouse have been rejected as unsuitable.

The six-bedroom Peckover House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was first advertised in November. Glyn Jones, the trust's property manager, said: "None of the applicants was suitable. They just didn't want to live in a way which we felt was in keeping with the house."

"Some of them were DIY enthusiasts, for instance. We didn't like the idea of them putting up new wallpaper

when we weren't looking. The house has to be lived in sympathetically. The ideal tenant will be someone who will use the house as their principal home rather than a weekend retreat and maybe become involved in its running."

There is one possible drawback for those who value their privacy: following its exposure on television, up to 15,000 tourists are expected to visit the house on Wednesdays and Sundays between April and October. However, visitors will not be allowed to troop through the tenants' bedrooms. They will be confined to the gardens and six public rooms.

Mr Jones said: "We need

someone who will bring life to the place. It was originally a family home and that is what we would like it to be again."

When the property came onto the market three years ago, the trust received about 600 applications from would-be tenants and is bracing itself for another flood. "The more the better as it gives us more to choose from," Mr Jones said. "Obviously when we find new tenants they will be encouraged to treat the house with a great deal of respect. Historically it is a very important building and one of only two Grade I listed buildings in the town."

The house was built overlooking the River Nene for

the Peckover family in 1722. The facade and three rooms were used in the BBC adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel last year. The house was also used in the early 1980s during the filming of *Vanity Fair*.

Mr Budge, Janet and an accused murderer. Trade and living their lives. Budge, who was a 'troublemaker' in the treasure in





Reputations, readerships and livelihoods have been saved from the risk of ruin

## Gym photos deal keeps Princess out of court

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND ANDREW PIERCE

IT WAS the prospect of Bryce Taylor, the owner of the gymnasium where the Princess of Wales was secretly photographed at her exercises, setting foot on British soil that sealed the fate of what promised to be the most publicised High Court hearing for decades.

From the moment in 1993 that the Princess decided to pursue Mr Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers through the courts for publishing pictures that she regarded as being a gross invasion of her privacy, there was never any serious doubt that the matter would be settled out of court. But the hearing, which was scheduled to open next Monday, with the prospect of the Princess taking the witness stand in the full glare of publicity, had come perilously close.

Mr Taylor had booked a flight from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, which would have delivered him to Heathrow at 6.55 am today. Max Clifford, his publicist, would have staged an impromptu press conference at which his client would have declared his relish for the fight with the Princess in the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, central London. He would have upstaged the Princess, who is due to arrive at the same terminal later today from her visit to Japan.

Lawyers representing the Princess, Mr Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers have been in negotiation for months, and have been on the verge of a settlement on at least two occasions. The first sign that the discussions had been injected with a note of urgency came on Monday, when a scheduled application by Mirror Group Newspapers in the Court of Appeal was suddenly withdrawn.

The newspaper group was understood to be seeking leave to have the action against itself and Mr Taylor split into two distinct cases, with a view to having the Taylor case heard first to draw the obloquy and uncomfortable questioning.

By that time Mirror Group Newspapers' in-house lawyers and Mishcon de Reya, the legal firm representing the Princess and headed by Lord Mishcon, realised that if there was to be an out-of-court settlement, which both sides clearly desired, a deal would have to be struck before Mr

Taylor arrived to raise the stakes.

A sticking point, which had been the fly in the ointment on previous occasions when settlement was close, was the exact wording of an apology that the *Daily Mirror* would carry.

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, took overall charge of his camp; at Mishcon de Reya the deal was hammered out by Anthony Julius, a senior litigation partner with the firm, assisted by fellow partner Karen Sanig.

After hours of negotiation all parties met in Mr Julius' office on Tuesday evening for another two hours of dotting I's and crossing T's. Shortly before midnight they broke up to telephone their respective clients; Mr Julius contacted the Princess in Tokyo, where it was 8 am and she was preparing for the last day of her Japanese visit.

She indicated her agreement in time for the *Daily Mirror* to carry its apology in its later editions, and for an announcement to be sent to other national newspapers shortly before 2 am. Yesterday all parties were able to keep a previously arranged appointment with a judge in chambers to finalise the terms of the settlement.

Despite her affirmation that she was more than happy to enter the witness box to defend the privacy of herself and her sons, there was little relish in the Princess's camp at the prospect of her being cross-examined by Geoffrey Robertson, QC, a barrister known for his skill at appealing to juries.

The other leading counsel who would have made or lost reputations in the case, Andrew Caldecott, QC for the Princess and David Keay for Mirror Group Newspapers, are known for a more cerebral approach.

The settlement appears to be reasonably satisfactory to all parties. The Princess has unquestionably won her point, and, although there is no personal gain for her, the legal fees — about £700,000 — will be borne by the defendants, and the estimated £300,000 earned by the offending pictures and frozen by the court while the case proceeded will go to a charity of her choice.

Mirror Group Newspapers has got off relatively lightly, escaping the punitive dam-



Lord Mishcon yesterday: a realist about a deal

ages that might have been awarded against it by a jury sympathetic to the Princess. Shortly after the *Daily Mirror* published the pictures in 1993 it appeared to realise that it had made an error of judgement, publishing a full apology to the Princess and enduring criticism from other

newspapers, which feared that the episode would hasten legal constraints on privacy against the press.

Many lawyers felt that the Princess was on shaky ground bringing a civil action for breach of contract, breach of confidence and breach of fiduciary duty, areas of the law which are somewhat untested. But Mirror Group Newspapers knew that, even if it had won the court case battle, it would have lost the war: to win a case against the Princess in open court would have won it few friends.

The position of Mr Taylor, who won legal aid and would therefore have fought the case at the expense of the British taxpayer, is less clear. He told reporters yesterday that he was "very happy" about the settlement. He is doubtless equally happy that he has not been bankrupted by a case that could so easily have gone against him.

Protocol first, page 1



Bryce Taylor speaking to journalists from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday after settlement of the case was announced

## Alzheimer's mouse may hold clue to cure

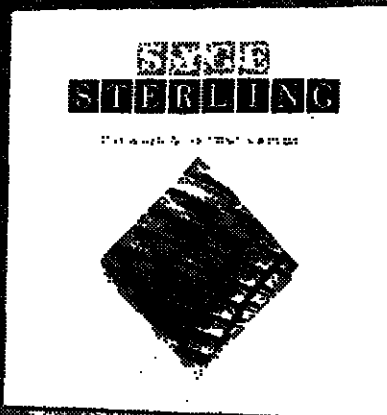
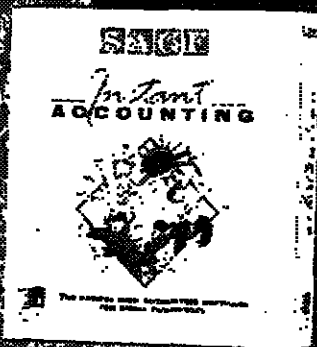
BY NIGEL HAWKES

A MOUSE that develops the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease has been created by genetic engineering. The mouse should provide a huge boost to Alzheimer's research by providing a model in which potential therapies can be tested.

The mouse was made by inserting a human gene found in families that are especially prone to Alzheimer's. The gene is responsible for making a protein called amyloid precursor protein, or APP.

The genetically-engineered mouse, reported in *Nature*, has been produced by a team led by Dr Ivan Lieberburg of Athena Neurosciences, in San Francisco, California.

In patients with Alzheimer's, the protein is present in the brain in the form of "plaques", damaged regions of brain lying between the brain cells. But studying the disease has been difficult until now because animals seldom suffer similar damage, so there has been no test-bed for measuring the effects of different treatments.



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## Contractor denies £25m swindle

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE managing director of a construction company secretly included the cost of building a swimming pool for race horses and a shooting range at his home in the price of a new bypass, a court was told yesterday.

The contract for Anthony Budge's firm to construct a road around Newark in Nottinghamshire involved a £25 million swindle, it was claimed.

Mr Budge, 55, his wife Janet and another director are accused by the Department of Trade and Industry of milking their company, A.F. Budge Ltd, of the money which was spent on a variety of "hobbies". These included a fruitless search for sunken treasure in the Caribbean, a

£2 million private yacht, military equipment — including a Scud missile — and helping their daughters' businesses.

Leeds County Court was told. A.F. Budge, the holding company, collapsed in 1992 with debts of £96.6 million. At the hearing, Mr Budge's brother Richard, whose company RJB Mining has just bought most of England's coal fields from the Government, was accused of involvement. He was a director of A.F. Budge until ten months before the receivers were called in. He has denied any impropriety.

The Official Receiver and the DTI are seeking an order under the Companies Act banning Mr Budge and his wife, of Osberton Hall, Worksop, and Michael Yates, a fellow director, of Sutton, Retford, both Nottinghamshire, from holding a directorship for the next seven years. The three deny all the allegations.

Mark Cawson, counsel for the Receiver, said the money was hived off to "hobby companies" and the interest-free loans led to the company's demise. The case was adjourned for the respondents to call witnesses.





# Bottomley tests judges' power to order her to court

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY will tomorrow try to put a stop to increasing demands from magistrates and Crown Court judges for her to appear in court to explain the shortage of secure mental health beds for dangerous offenders.

The Health Secretary is to send a barrister to West Sussex to appear on her behalf before Judge Thorpe, who last week ordered her attendance after no secure bed could be found for a woman described as a potential killer. The barrister will argue that there should be no requirement for a serving secretary of state to appear in person and will ask the judge to withdraw the witness summons.

The woman, Sharon Towes, 24, of Crawley, West Sussex, is being held at Holloway prison, a situation Judge Thorpe described as "quite unacceptable". She made her seventh court appearance last week since being arrested last April after stabbing Henry O'Rawe, a council



Bottomley: sending a barrister in her place

worker. She admitted malicious wounding. A hospital bed was found for her this week, but a Health Department spokesman said she was awaiting transfer until the court reconvened to hear her case tomorrow.

The Towes case is the fourth in recent months in which the Health Secretary has been called to attend the courts and is a sign of the growing frustration among judges at

the lack of provision for mentally disordered offenders. Last week, magistrates in Worthing, West Sussex, requested Mrs Bottomley's attendance when a bed could not be found for Mark Dwan, a mentally ill man known to be a suicide risk.

The Health Department spokesman said that Dwan was refusing to be assessed by psychiatrists, which made it impossible for them to tell whether he was suitable for treatment.

On Wednesday, at her request, Mrs Bottomley met Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to seek his advice after the Health Department and the Lord Chancellor's department appeared to differ over whether the Secretary of State could be required to attend court.

The Health Department said that under the Mental Health Act, 1983, a representative of the regional health authority or a government lawyer could appear on her behalf. The Lord Chancellor's department said that under the Criminal Procedure (Attendance of Witnesses) Act, 1975, she could be summoned to appear in person.

The spokesman said yesterday: "We are sending a legal representative to appear before Judge Thorpe to find out whether judges have the power to require the Secretary of State to attend court. Every time one of these cases happens, Virginia Bottomley is called to attend. We want to sort it out."

Last September, ministers pledged £4.4 million to provide extra medium secure beds for mental patients after a series of reports highlighted the pressure on mental hospitals.

John Bowis, the junior Health Minister, said yesterday that until 1979 there were no medium secure beds and mentally disordered offenders were automatically sent to prison.

He added: "It is only through the Government's sustained investment in this area that courts now have the ability to refer mentally disordered offenders to the medium secure hospital system."

## Reforms urged to intoxication law

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to clarify the law on when intoxication can be a defence to crime are called for by the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, today. The present law, which allows an intoxication defence in some crimes but not others, is confusing and obscure, the Commission says.

The law allows the defence in crimes such as murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent, but not in manslaughter, actual bodily harm and rape. The Commission recommends that if the prosecution claims a defendant intended to cause a particular result, he can rely on intoxication as evidence that he had no such intention. However, where the prosecution alleges that he realised there was a

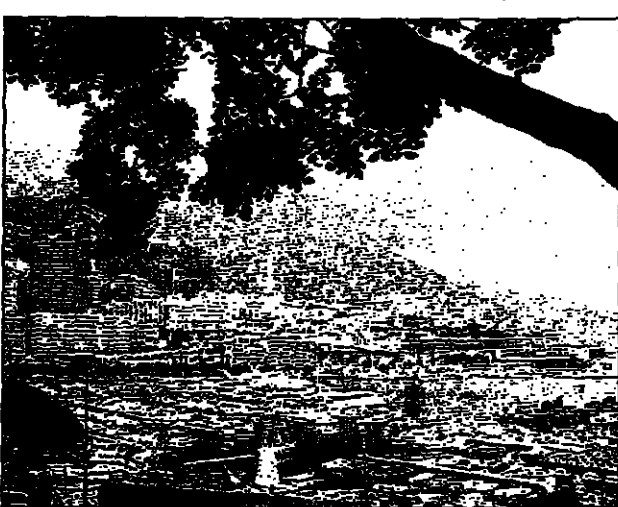
risk that a particular result would occur, intoxication would be no defence. This would not apply where the defendant did not realise he was taking a drug or alcohol, was forced to take it or took it on medical advice.

The Commission says: "These rules are broadly similar to the existing law, but anomalies and inconsistencies would be eliminated. The law would also be clearer and easier to find, because it would be statutory form. It proposes a draft bill to be incorporated into its proposed code for the criminal law for England and Wales."

□ *Legislating the Criminal Code: Intoxication and Criminal Liability (Law Commission report no.229)*



Canon Barry Thomas outside his church in Caernarvon. He leaves today to become a chaplain in Monaco



## Welsh rector leaves for place in the sun

A RECTOR from Caernarvon will leave behind the grey skies of North Wales today and head for the sunshine as Anglican chaplain of Monaco. Canon Barry Thomas is taking up a three-year contract at the duck-egg blue cliff-top church of St Paul's, on the Avenue de Grande Bretagne.

He and his wife, Delyth, will live in an apartment beneath the church, which is renowned for its library,

founded by Baroness Orczy, author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. The parish, in the diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, contains about 100 Britons. The congregation will pay his stipend.

"The Anglican church in Monaco is there for a specific purpose," he said. "English-speaking people identify with it, whether they are churchgoers or not, because it is a base where they can meet and talk in English."

## Lifeboatmen barred for indiscipline

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THREE lifeboatmen who launched a rescue boat against orders have been suspended from duty. The volunteers set out in a gale to help seven men on a stricken barge. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution took the unusual action of suspending the men for indiscipline.

The volunteers were eager to join a rescue on New Year's Day when a crane-carrying barge broke its moorings and became stuck on a coastal protection reef off the Norfolk coast at Sea Palling. The

Great Yarmouth coastguard scrambled a helicopter from RAF Watisham and asked the lifeboat station at Gorleston to launch its all-weather boat to stand by while the men were winched to safety.

The 45ft covered vessel was launched with a crew of five. Neal Duffield, honorary secretary, said yesterday: "Members of the crew who were at the station asked whether the inshore lifeboat could be launched. With the weather conditions prevailing, which was 35 knots of wind, snow storms and a very rough sea, I refused to have the boat launched." Mr Duffield said that the inshore boat

should not be launched in winds rougher than force seven, which is a near-gale. The weather conditions were force nine.

The three men launched the open-topped boat but were quickly recalled by radio and returned to shore. The stranded bargemen were winched to safety by the helicopter. After a disciplinary inquiry, the helmsman was suspended for six months and the two crew for three months each.

Mr Duffield said: "I assume they were acting from over-keenness and this is not the sort of thing we want to happen. I have to protect the crew members."

## Drunken station master sentenced

A station master who was found to be drunk while in charge of Glasgow Central Station was sentenced to 150 hours' community service by Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday. British Transport Police tested Paul Cook, 33, and discovered he had consumed almost double the alcohol limit for people controlling the movement of trains, which is less than the limit for motorists. The duty officer being relieved told the court he could not possibly allow Cook to take charge of the station.

## Retrial verdict

A Jamaican jailed for life in August 1993 has been cleared after a retrial at the Old Bailey. Leroy Lesley, 26, was acquitted of killing one man and wounding two others. Relatives said he planned to return to Jamaica.

## Tidy driver killed

A man was killed as he tried to retrieve debris on the M40 in Oxfordshire to make the road safer. Dr Anthony Jackson, 50, a psychologist at a Bedfordshire business school, had got out to pick up the debris that his BMW had hit.

## Driver jailed

Brett Harris, 20, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, who drove at a motorist after a crash and carried on at high speed with the man clinging to his windscreen wipers, was jailed for three years and three months yesterday.

## Mayor charged

Rhys Wynn Lewis, 54, Mayor of Aberaeron, Dyfed, is to appear before Carmarthen magistrates on March 13 charged with falsely claiming expenses for duties performed as a member of Dyfed County Council.

## Father killed son

A man was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the "horrendous" murder of his 11-week-old son. Christopher Dearlove, 26, of Berlegh Heath, southeast London, claimed he had accidentally dropped Michael, injuring his head.

## Whale award

Whale Watch, a Maori-run tour group based in Kaikoura on New Zealand's South Island, has beaten 120 entries to win the global environment prize in the 1994 British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards. Travel, pages 22-23

## Alarm theft

Thieves set off a fire alarm at Carlisle Civic Centre and stole £5,000 cash while the building was evacuated. The thieves had been hiding in a roof void before the alarm went off and returned there until it was safe to leave.

## Cathedral cru

York Minster is to sell wine with its own label depicting the West Front. Ian Martin, banqueting manager at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, helped to choose the St Emilion Grand Cru, which will cost £10 from the gift shop.

## Winter birthday makes scientists more radical

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

YOUR date of birth may influence your willingness to embrace new ideas, a study of eminent scientists has shown. Those born in the winter are more ready to accept radical theories, while those born in the summer are more inclined to oppose them, says Dr Michael Holmes, a psychologist from Queen Margaret College in Edinburgh.

He stumbled across the relationship by accident when studying the rapid acceptance among physicists of Einstein's theories of relativity. At the time, an alternative explanation for the same observations existed, propounded by the Dutch physicist Hendrik Lorentz. Dr Holmes tried to identify characteristics that determined why some supported Einstein and some Lorentz. "I wasn't looking for birth dates at all, but they emerged."

Comparing ten eminent supporters with nine opponents, he found that all ten relativists were born between October and April, compared with only two opponents. He later made the same comparisons among biologists who either supported or opposed Darwin's theory of evolution. Eleven of 12 evolutionists were born between October and April, but only five of 16 anti-evolutionists. Aggregating both results, he writes in *Nature*, December 14, that April houses 82 per cent of the proponents' birth dates, but only 24 per cent of the antagonists. May to July accounts for none of the protagonists but 60 per cent of the antagonists. Does this mean the astrologers are right? "I'm not driven to astrological explanations," Dr Holmes says. "I think environmental and climatic factors may explain it." Influences early in childhood may have different effects depending on when they are experienced. Summer and winter also offer different diets, and light-induced hormone fluctuations. "This may not be true today," Dr Holmes says. "All the people I studied were born before electric light, central heating, and year-round availability of different foods."



Darwin: his supporters were born in the winter

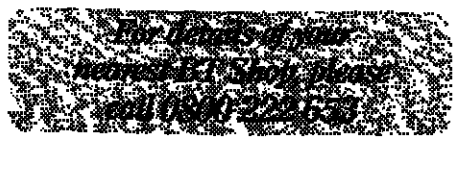
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Gorman alleges 'deliberate targeting by the socialist council of my husband and I for prosecution'



The Gormans outside their renovated home, left, and as it was when they bought it

## MP opens home to deny ruining listed Tudor farm

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERESA GORMAN, one of the Tory MPs who has lost the whip, yesterday threw open the new oak front door to the £300,000 Tudor farmhouse she has been accused of vandalising to tell her side of the story.

Mrs Gorman invited the media to inspect Old Hall Farm, in Orsett, Essex, where she has exposed beams and fireplaces and changed walls, staircases and windows. The restoration, which cost the Gormans £170,000, has led to 66 summonses for alleged breaches of planning regulations.

Mrs Gorman, 63, alleges that planners on the Labour-controlled Thurrock Council have mounted a vendetta against her for political purposes.

The Grade II listed building was derelict until Mrs Gorman bought it at auction in 1992 for £130,000. But the restoration of the property, which was extended in the 17th and 19th centuries, was carried out without planning consent, and the council claims that she has turned it into a "pseudo-medieval" pile and wants her to restore it to its previous condition.

The MP for Billericay showed reporters around the four-bedroom house, pointing out everything from the scullery to the new porch. The

refurbishment includes an inglenook where an old Raeburn heater stood, replacement mullion windows and lined oak doors.

Lawyers for Mrs Gorman and her husband Jim, 71, who could be jailed for six months or fined £660,000, yesterday threatened to fight back by applying to the Environment Secretary for retrospective planning consent before the case comes to court.

Last night Mrs Gorman was picketing a meeting of the authority at which the recommendation of its planning committee to prosecute was expected to be adopted. She said: "None of this would have happened if we were just a couple of chartered accountants. It's purely a vendetta by the local authority because of who I am. The dispute has been manipulated for political purposes. I am not only annoyed but very upset."

Mrs Gorman said that at no stage had Paul Shelley, the chief planning officer who has accused her of "history replacement therapy", sought to reach a negotiated settlement. Shortly before and after buying the house, the couple met Mr Shelley at the site with a builder to discuss its preservation after a century of neglect. She said: "It had been completely empty for several years, vandalised and de-

clared uninhabitable. It was obvious that any restoration works would inevitably cause some disturbance to the fabric. Mr Shelley made no mention of any need for applications under planning control or listed building consent."

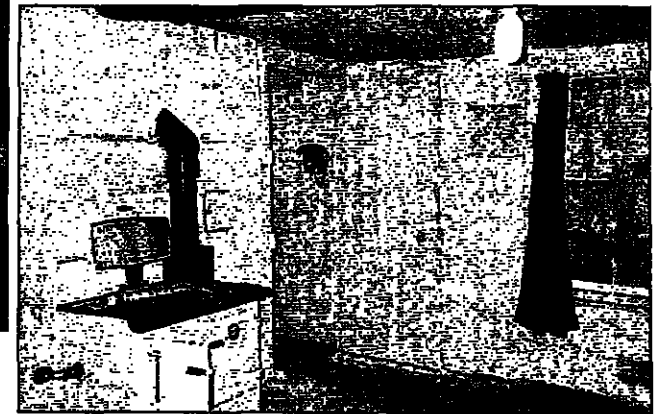
The MP said that no council official had visited even though they had been free to inspect the building works or issue a "stop notice" during the past two years and that it was only after the work was finished and the council was notified that the couple planned to occupy the house that a conservation officer called.

Mrs Gorman claimed that the council had fed information to *Private Eye* and to newspapers and refused to discuss the reason behind much of the restoration work.

Mrs Gorman said: "This can point to only one object. The deliberate targeting by the socialist council of my husband and I for public prosecution. Instead of giving fair and reasonable consideration of the work that we have carried out, at great expense to ourselves, the council has chosen to launch this vindictive, malicious and unnecessary prosecution. This is our home and Jim cannot see himself living anywhere else. We are being threatened with demolition of all that we have achieved."



Top: the Gormans by their restored fireplace in Old Hall Farm, a Grade II listed building; bottom left, the fireplace in its original state; middle right, the kitchen as it is today, and bottom right, as it was when the couple bought the house

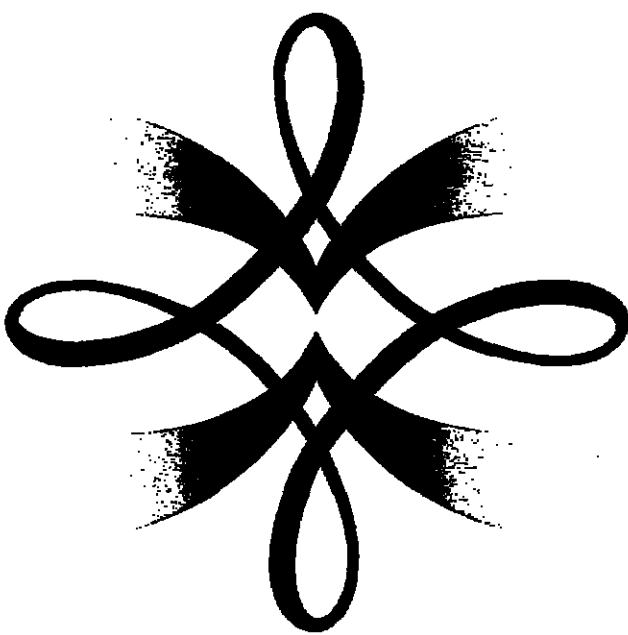


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Fifty years ago today Canadian troops cracked Nazi Germany's toughest nut. The end was in sight

# The day the Allies broke through the Siegfried Line

ON FEBRUARY 9, 1945, troops of the Canadian First Army overran and captured six villages in an assault on the Siegfried Line.

Codenamed Operation Veritable, the attack had been launched the day before, with the intention that British and Canadian troops, advancing southeast from the Dutch city of Nijmegen, should link up with the American Ninth Army, advancing north-east in preparation for the crossing of the Rhine.

In the First World War, the Siegfried Line had been the name given by the Germans to their front line of trenches, to their opponents it was known as the Hindenburg Line. In deference to the formidable field marshal, in the 1930s the name was adopted by Hitler, doubtless with the hero of Wagner's Ring in mind, to designate the string of pillboxes and other fortifications marking Germany's western frontier.

Since the triumph of the D-Day landings on the Normandy beaches in June 1944, the subsequent break-out from the beach-head and the liberation of Paris and Brussels, the Allied advance had

In the first of an occasional series leading to the 50th anniversary of VE-Day in May, John Young describes the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany



met with several setbacks. Operation Market Garden, which had been intended to shorten the war by capturing the bridges over the Maas, the Waal and the Rhine, and so open the road into Germany, had ended in near-disaster with the destruction of the British First Airborne Division at Arnhem in September.

Shortly before Christmas 19 German divisions under

Field Marshal von Rundstedt had launched a counter-offensive in the Ardennes region of Belgium, which became known as the Battle of the Bulge. It was not until January 12, after bitter fighting and heavy casualties on both sides, that the German advance was finally halted.

Von Rundstedt had foreseen at an early stage that the offensive was unlikely to succeed, partly because of a shortage of fuel and other supplies and because reinforcements could not be guaranteed. He wanted to preserve what was left of the German army to defend the Reich, but was overruled by Hitler. He afterwards described it as "Stalingrad number two".

Meanwhile, on the eastern front Soviet troops had crossed the Oder and established a 50-mile bridgehead within Germany itself, while four American divisions had



On to Berlin: an Allied unit prepares to cross the Rhine. The end of the war in Europe was just three months away

also entered Germany from Luxembourg. But the British and Canadians were still stalled in and around Nijmegen, and their commander, Field Marshal Montgomery, was under pressure to take

action. After heavy January rains much of the terrain was under water, a phenomenon repeated, in recent days, half a century later.

The push through the Siegfried Line on February 9

came after an overnight attack followed by a 1,000-gun bombardment linked to a second air strike. Under that pressure the German front edge quickly collapsed and the Canadians, followed by

the British, crossed the flooded lowlands by amphibious trucks and pushed south.

They won a desperate hide-and-seek battle for the Reichswald, 50 square miles

of close-growing evergreen trees on a hogback between the Maas and Rhine rivers south of Nijmegen. The Reichswald was the last strong German defensive point in the area and its capture was particularly difficult. On February 11 the 43rd Division of Lieutenant-General Brian Horrocks's 30 Corps broke free of a smart-up of tanks and lorries churning the rain-sodden roads and captured the town of Cleve.

Two weeks later Hitler proclaimed that the tide of war was about to turn in Germany's favour, but it was no more than a gesture of defiance. By then the Red Army had captured Budapest after a 50-day siege, which cost the Axis armies some 159,000 casualties.

The deliberate flooding of the Ruhr valley by the Germans had meanwhile delayed the American advance and it was March 3 before they finally linked up with the British at Geldern. But by February 26 the Americans were within ten miles of Cologne and were able to begin shelling the city. It was the beginning of the end.

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**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

## Responding to pre-empt

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Look at the East-West combinations below:

I	♠3 ♥KQJ9876 ♦85 ♣1065	♠AK4 ♥2 ♦AQ1043 ♣KQ42
II	♠3 ♥KQJ9876 ♦85 ♣1065	♠AQ42 ♥AKQJ987 ♦K2

What contract would you like to be in on each of the layouts?

It is pretty clear that on I, the best contract is Four Hearts. Barring bad breaks, playing in hearts East-West are likely to make two spade tricks, six heart tricks, one diamond trick and one club trick. But if East were the declarer in 3NT he would not be able to make use of dummy's heart suit, and might well only make six or seven tricks. On East-West layout II, the best contract is undoubtedly 3NT played by East. If West plays in Four Hearts, he might easily lose three clubs and a heart.

So what has all this got to do with responding to pre-empt? It is that in the two layouts above, if West is the dealer he will open Three Hearts. On the first hand the correct bid for East is Four Hearts, because he can envisage how the play will go in that contract. He must not bid 3NT

— as you can see, that will not play anything like as well.

You might say, well West can always bid Four Hearts over 3NT. But that is wrong — when West opens Three Hearts East knows the sort of hand to expect. So if East decides to bid 3NT West should respect that decision. That is why I have put in deal II — on that hand East should respond 3NT to West's Three Hearts opening, and West should pass — he has already described his hand.

It is true that the classical pre-empt as held by West is rare — somehow in practice the suit is less good or the pre-emptor will have one or two side cards which may be useful in 3NT.

But the principle still applies: (a) responder should consider how his hand will play opposite the classic type and bid accordingly; (b) the pre-emptor should respect his decision.

**KEENE on CHESS**

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Karpov the python

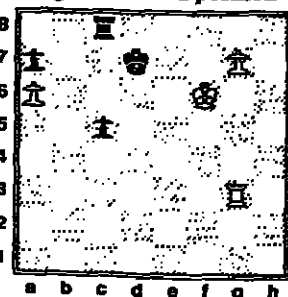
The style of Anatoly Karpov, world champion from 1975 to 1985 and the current reigning FIDE champion, has been likened to that of a python, inexorably squeezing the life out of his opponent. Boris Gelfand, his opponent in the FIDE matches in Sanghi Nagar, India, is a considerably more impetuous player. It is likely that once Karpov seizes Gelfand in his coils as in this game, that his young rival will be unable to escape. The following win is typical of Karpov's manoeuvring prowess.

White: Karpov  
Black: Gelfand  
Linares 1991

## Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nf3	Bg7
4	g3	O-O
5	Bg2	0-0
6	Nc3	d5
7	cxd5	cxd5
8	Ne5	Bf6
9	O-O	Ne4
10	Bd3	Nc3
11	bxc3	Nc3
12	Qb3	0-0
13	Nc6	bxc6
14	Qa3	Rf6
15	Bf4	e5
16	Bxe5	Bxe5
17	dxe5	Rxe5
18	g4	Be4
19	Rd1	Qf6
20	Rd4	h5
21	h3	Rb8
22	Ra1	Bg2
23	Kg2	Qc7
24	Qc7	Rc7
25	Rf1	Rb6
26	c4	dxc4
27	Rxc4	Kg7
28	Rd2	Rc7
29	g4	h4
30	h4	Kf6
31	Kg3	Kf6
32	g5	Rf7
33	g6	Rf6
34	Rd4	Ke8

## Diagram of final position



The adjourned game ended in a win for Karpov. Salov resigned on move 70.

In the adjourned first game of the semi-final match between Gata Karpov and Valery Salov, Karpov forced a victory after 70 moves in Wednesday's second session. Karpov had adjourned with the advantage of a queen against Salov's rook and two pawns. Salov, however, hoped to force a draw but within a mere nine moves Karpov breached Salov's defences to force the win. Karpov now leads by 1½ points to a half.

Winning Move, page 48



# We can do without single currency, say businessmen

By JILL SHERMAN AND ALICE THOMSON

LEADING businessmen will fuel the political row over Europe today by suggesting that a single market can still operate effectively without a single currency.

In a further sign that the business community is split over the benefits of European monetary union, a number of business leaders have written to *The Times* suggesting that a single currency is "not indispensable to expanding exports".

The Confederation of British Industry generally supports a single currency although the Institute of Directors opposes it. The authors of the letter, who include Lord Hanson, Owen Green, former chairman of the conglomerate BTR, and Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the Institute of Directors, criticised politicians who argued the case for monetary union by claiming that it has widespread support from the business community.

Businessmen and politicians are eagerly awaiting a speech by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, tonight in which he is expected to spell out criteria for joining a single currency beyond those laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

Douglas Street was said to be taking a keen interest in Mr Clarke's speech yesterday with several drafts being sent between Number 10 and the Treasury. It is understood that John Major was keen to harden the text and include more about specific conditions

that Britain would demand. The Prime Minister has already said that the criteria would include the relative flexibility of employment markets.

Last night Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the whippersnappers, also tried to fan the flames by suggesting that monetary union "would prove to be a costly nonsense securing nothing apart from gigantic subsidy and total inflexibility". In a speech to the Cambridge Union Conservative Association, Sir Teddy suggested that British officials were already working towards a single currency even though this had not been agreed by the government.

Last night Mr Major was trying to reassure constituency party chairmen that he would hold the party together over Europe as part of a new charm offensive to win over party activists. In the first of a series of meetings, Mr Major entertained 150 constituency chairmen and their wives at a Downing Street reception.

Party sources insisted that Mr Major would not be making a political speech but would take the opportunity to thank those attending for all their hard work. Over the next few months he hopes to see as many of the 650 chairmen as possible.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats challenged John Major to end Britain's opt-out from the single currency, warning that Britain faced a bleak economic future if it was

left out of EMU. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that he would make "every effort" to engineer a government defeat in the Commons next Monday when the Liberal will use a rare parliamentary debate slot to put forward a motion backing the principle of a referendum on closer EU ties.

Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, said that Britain faced a "nightmare of decline, marginalisation and eventual economic ruin" if it opted out of the single currency. "Our economy is now entirely geared towards our relationship with the European Union, the development of a single market, and the logical conclusion of it, which is a single currency," he said.

Mr Ashdown was hoping to attract Labour, the Unionists and the whippersnappers into humiliating the Tories into humiliating the Government on Monday, but at a Shadow Cabinet meeting last night Labour decided to issue only a one-line whip and to field a junior spokesman for the debate.

A Labour spokesman said: "We accept that further substantial change regarding constitutional matters or the issue of a single currency require popular consent either by a referendum or a general election. But we have no intention of saying what is the best approach before we know the timing or the content."

Letters, page 19

## Shephard backed to succeed Hurd

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR Tory MPs and ministers are pressing the claims of Gillian Shephard to become Britain's first woman Foreign Secretary if Douglas Hurd decides to give up the post in the next 18 months.

They are arguing that the Education Secretary's reputation as a "constructive Euro-sceptic" would make her an ideal choice for the job in a Cabinet where the traditional strongly pro-European balance is gradually shifting.

Mrs Shephard's closest supporters are presenting her sceptic credentials as being more convincing than those of other front-runners. But they believe that her position as one of the Prime Minister's closest and most loyal allies means that he will give serious consideration to appointing her when the time comes.

It is argued that any Prime Minister needs to feel comfortable with his Foreign Secretary, as Mr Major clearly does with Mr Hurd, and Margaret Thatcher eventually did not with Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Shephard is known to be a strong supporter of the more Euro-sceptic line taken by Mr Major since the turn of the year. She has made a swift rise through the ministerial ranks since entering Parliament in 1987. After joining the Cabinet as Employment Secretary in 1992 she soon became Agriculture Minister, a job that involved



continual negotiation with Brussels and provided experience that would serve her well at the Foreign Office.

She becomes the latest in a long list of suggested successors to Mr Hurd. Although many MPs and ministers believe that he will go this summer, he has clearly indicated that he is in no hurry. Mr Major would like him to stay until next year's conference on the future of the European Union.

The other leading candi-

dates for the post are Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Mr Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary. Jonathan Aitken, the strongly sceptical Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is also being pushed.

Well-placed Euro-sceptic ministers say that Mr Rifkind, Sir Patrick and, surprisingly, Mr Lang are

too pro-European for the present climate within the party. But they say that Mr Aitken represents the opposite extreme and would not be acceptable to much of the parliamentary party.

Mrs Shephard's chances will depend on her performance in the education hot seat, where faces the imminent threat of classroom disruption after the Government's refusal to find more money to fund the teachers' pay award.

## Selection for NHS trust jobs attacked

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT appointments in the NHS are based on "subjective judgment, personal whim and political patronage," the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life has been told.

Yesterday the committee, examining the system of appointments made by or on behalf of the Health Secretary to the 600 NHS bodies, said that it had received more submissions on the issue than any other.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, which represents most NHS management bodies, told the inquiry that the proposals announced by the Government this week for greater openness in public appointments did not go far enough. Chris Robinson, representing the NAHAT, said that there was "anecdotal evidence that the selection process is not as wide as one would expect".

The committee has received written evidence from a senior member of an NHS trust claiming that the appointments procedure is "highly idiosyncratic". The evidence goes on to claim that "subjective judgment, personal whim and political patronage" all play a part. Mr Robinson said that he gave a qualified assent to that view.

At present, the Health Secretary directly or indirectly controls 3,000 appointments to NHS bodies. About 93 per cent of those posts carry some form of remuneration. The appointments have attracted strong accusations from Labour that NHS trusts are being packed with Tory placemen. One of the more controversial was the appointment of Lady Parkinson, wife of the former Cabinet minister Lord Parkinson, to chair a health trust in Barnet.

The Confederation of British Industry said in evidence to the Nolan committee, published yesterday, that there should be "waiting periods for all those who have served within government who then seek work outside". David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, told the committee on Tuesday that the government was utterly opposed to any such restriction.

## Council tax appeals take 'too long'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MPs are demanding steps to speed up the hundreds of thousands of appeals against errors in assessing council tax bandings.

Up to two million assessments are estimated to be wrong and MPs on the Commons Public Accounts Committee have voiced concern in a report that some of the appeals will take more than two years to be resolved. The committee is calling for extra staffing to deal with a backlog of 167,000 cases.

The National Audit Office has said occupants of up to 900,000 properties in England and Wales may be paying too much because their homes were overvalued. A further 1.1 million may be paying too little.

## Tunnel rail link blight condemned

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE ombudsman has sharply criticised the Government for blighting the lives of hundreds of Kent households with lengthy delays in setting the route of the Channel Tunnel rail link.

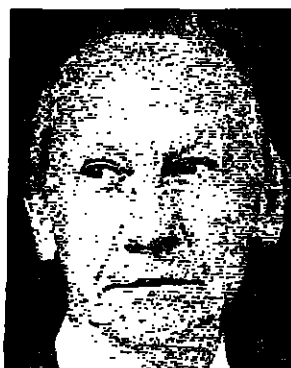
In a highly unusual response, however, the Transport Department has rejected the findings of the report and refused to offer compensation. William Reid, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, condemned the four-year delay as "unquestionable maladministration". House-owners along the possible routes found that their properties were virtually unsaleable between 1990 and 1994, when the Government announced its decision.

Mr Reid said in his report:

"The effect of the Department of Transport's policy was to put the project in limbo, keeping it alive when it could not be funded." He said the department "had a responsibility to consider the position of such persons suffering emotional or extreme hardship and to provide redress where appropriate. They undertook no such considerations. That merits my criticism."

The inquiry was triggered by complaints from three Tory MPs, Andrew Lowe (Mid Kent), Sir Keith Speed (Ashford) and Sir John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling).

However, Sir Patrick Brown, the permanent secretary at the Transport Department, rejected its findings. In his formal response to the



Reid: sharp criticism of Transport Department

report, he denied that the project "was ever in limbo" and said that it had been pursued "with vigour".

He said it would have been impossible for practical and legal reasons to devise a hardship scheme for people affected by the delay. "It would be an extraordinary proposition that maladministration can arise simply because official or ministers failed to provide a remedy to an unremediable set of problems."

## Dispute delays MPs' inquiry

LABOUR MPs are calling for a government whip to be removed from the committee investigating allegations against the former minister Neil Hamilton (Arthur Leathley writes).

They want Andrew Mitchell to be taken off the Members' Interests Select Committee because of his opposition to the inquiry taking oral evidence. The dispute over his membership came to a head

this week when a committee hearing was suspended after Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour MP, sat in on the private proceedings and refused to leave. It is unusual for a minister to serve on a select committee but the Tories say that Labour did not object when Mr Mitchell was appointed.

Mr Campbell-Savours's unexpected protest delayed a decision being taken on

whether to clear Mr Hamilton of breaching Commons rules by failing to declare a £4,000 six-day stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. MPs acknowledge that Mr Hamilton's visit in 1987 cannot be in breach of rules introduced subsequently, but some members believe that he should still be censured for failing to declare it. Future meetings may have to be suspended if Mr Campbell-Savours repeats his protest.

## Outdoor centres scheme welcomed

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCHEME for the compulsory licensing and inspection of Britain's 3,000 outdoor activity centres may be in place by April next year, MPs were told yesterday.

Education Department officials and representatives of the Activity Centres Advisory Committee told an education select committee that centres faced a "bureaucratic overload" and urgently needed a mandatory scheme to streamline safety standards. The committee's second reading of a private member's Bill by David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, in January. The Bill, which calls for the compulsory licensing and inspection of outdoor pursuits centres, was put forward after deaths of four teenagers at an activity centre in Lyme Regis in 1993.

Roger Putnam, chairman of the Council for Outdoor Education, Training and Recreation, said that the industry welcomed the idea of self-regulation and would like to see it implemented quickly. "It's been welcomed across the board. I have been in touch with many outdoor

activity centres and providers and they all welcome it... I would very much like to see something in place by 1996."

A statutory accreditation scheme would probably be governed by about 25 full-time inspectors, Mr Putnam said. "Every centre would need to be inspected within the first year of operation if the scheme is to have any credibility." After that, it is estimated that centres would require inspection about every three years.

Centres would pay a registration cost of about £500. Mr Putnam said: "A charge that was too big would mean that small operators would find it seriously hard to continue in business."

Richard Arrowsmith, chairman of the Scottish Council for Outdoor Education, Training and Recreation, said that some centres had experienced a "bureaucratic overload" over the past couple of years and now hoped for a streamlined scheme that would require only one inspection.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, MPs set off 100m for backbench debates starting with the Sale of British Coal Bill. At 2.30pm questions to trade and industry ministers were followed by debates on Welsh revenue support grant reports and Children (Northern Ireland) Orders. The Lords debated inner-city problems, transport infrastructure policy, the Litchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation Bill and the Scottish rambles value orders.

TOMORROW: In the Commons, questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate on the White Paper on the future of the BBC. The Lords will debate the Environment Bill and Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (General) Regulations.

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## Scandinavia donors to sue Boesak over funds

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

ALLAN BOESAK, the fallen hero of the anti-apartheid struggle, is being sued by four Scandinavian charities for allegedly mismanaging funds. The donors are suing him for the alleged embezzlement of funds. Johan Brismar and Christian Balslev-Olesen said after the two-hour meeting that "the donors have not found the explanations given satisfactory".

Colone Raymond Dowd, a police spokesman, said in Cape Town last night that no complaint had been received, and that no investigation would be undertaken until a formal complaint had been lodged. Colone Dowd said that Maj Roy Melnick was investigating the disappearance of funds passed to the foundation from the 1988 concert tour by Paul Simon, the American singer. That complaint was lodged by Des-

mond Turo, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town. Later Dr Boesak said that he had been "hurt" by the attitude of the representatives, adding that they had made up their minds about the allegations and he had not had a proper chance to put his side of the story.

"The meeting today was in a very real sense a farce," he said from his Cape Town home. "I was not given an opportunity to defend myself against allegations in the report." He declared there was nobody to whom he owed an apology, and called the Scandinavians "arrogant and in contempt of what we are trying to do. I speak with anger in my heart today. I have spent most of my life fighting for the liberation of the people. I have fought for is not for me."

After the publication of the report, commissioned by the four charities from a Johannesburg firm of lawyers, Dr Boesak insisted that he was innocent of the allegations that he had enriched himself with the Nordic money. "I believe this report is a travesty of justice," he said. "I have done



Allan and Elna Boesak with Paul Simon, centre, at the former churchman's Cape Town home during the singer's South African tour

nothing wrong. I have not stolen any money." He claimed to see no reason why he should not take up his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

According to the report, over a period of five years the foundation gave loans of more than two million rands (£390,000) to Dr Boesak, to the foundation's accountant, Freddy Steenkamp, and other staff members. Dr Boesak tried to blame it all on his accountant,

explaining that he did not know how his financial affairs were being conducted.

A Swedish Embassy statement said yesterday: "He justifies a monthly income of more than 20,000 rands on merit, and distances himself from responsibility for management of the foundation's financial affairs. Among queries raised in the investigation are payments in respect of the settlement of Mrs Boesak's debts, the purchase of Dr Boesak's house and the reno-

vations thereof. Dr Boesak's extensive travel budget and his wedding reception."

The investigation has shown that only limited sums have been applied to foundation projects; and despite this the foundation is in debt for about three to four million rands.

"The Nordic donors wish to express our concern about the fact that needy groups have been left without the support that the Nordic agencies had intended to give them," the

statement said. The donors include the Church of Norway's Council on Foreign Relations and the Olof Palme International Centre.

Dr Boesak, a charismatic orator, was the darling of the Coloured community in the Cape throughout the 1980s. He led the moves to found the United Democratic Front in 1983, which became the internal arm of the exiled African National Congress. Earlier, he had persuaded the World Alliance of Reformed

Churches to declare apartheid a heresy. His reputation as a womaniser led to his being targeted by the South African security services.

When journalists found him with Elna Botha, a television producer, in 1990 he resigned from the church. He was later divorced and married Miss Botha, niece of a National Party Cabinet minister.

Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, is expected to see Dr Boesak then report to President Mandela.

## UN seat sought by Japan

Tokyo: Japan will seek a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council in 1997 and 1998 while awaiting full membership of the body, the Jiji Press news agency reported yesterday.

Foreign Ministry officials said that Japan chose this option in order to take part in a revision of the UN Charter to permit new permanent members. An overhaul of the council which would permit new permanent members requires a revision of the UN charter. Japan has obtained non-permanent council membership seven times since 1958. The Philippines and India have already declared their candidacy for the Asian place, which will be decided in November 1996. (AFP)

## Border crossed

Mae Sot, Thailand: Thai forces fired mortars at an estimated 50 Burmese troops who crossed into Thailand during an attack on the rebel Karen National Union's last border stronghold. (Reuters)

## Minister goes

Athens: George Kouvelakis, the Greek Justice Minister, has resigned after a row inside the Socialist Government over prison reform policy, his press office said. The Prime Minister accepted his resignation. (Reuters)

## Talks offered

Taipei: Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party has given a mixed reaction to an offer of new talks by President Jiang Zemin of China to end their conflict and move towards reunification. (Reuters)

## Treason charge

Moscow: A representative of the Russian Aeroflot airline in Zimbabwe has been formally charged with high treason for spying for the African country, Moscow Military Court officials said. (AP)

## Mink spies

Stockholm: Sweden may have mistaken sound patterns made by minks and other small swimming animals for Russian submarines thought to be spying, military chiefs now say. (Reuters)

## Rwanda stalls on 'peace radio' project

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A PIONEERING British effort to set up a United Nations radio station in Rwanda has run into difficulties with the new Government in Kigali which has delayed its first broadcast for months.

Britain announced last summer that it would spend \$100,000 to set up a UN radio network in Rwanda in the hope of providing an alternative to the di of ethnic hatred broadcast on local stations run by Hutu extremists.

The project is seen as a crucial test of Britain's argu-

ment that all large UN peace-keeping operations should be equipped with their own radio station. Britain this week won Security Council backing for the creation of a UN radio station in the new peacekeeping mission in Angola, and the Government has also been a staunch supporter of UN broadcasting efforts in the Balkans.

The Foreign Office asked the BBC to set up the UN station in Rwanda, and the BBC subcontracted the work to a GEC Marconi subsidiary

in Chelmsford. A British engineer travelled to the country on November 14 to start work. Almost three months later, however, Radio Unamir, as the network will be known, is still not on the air and the delay has prompted questions in the Security Council.

Western diplomats say that the Rwandan Government, formed by victorious rebels from the Tutsi minority, originally thought Britain was going to help rebuild the state radio and started to stall when it became clear that British

funds and expertise were going to a UN station that would be beyond its control.

However, Manzi Bakurumutsa, Rwanda's Ambassador to the UN, said the delays were not caused by his Government. He said there were still problems with the allocation of frequencies and the positioning of transmitters, but the Kigali Government was now willing to overlook them.

Diplomats say Radio UNAMIR will now go on air within a matter of days.

## Britain helps rights groups

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN announced yesterday that it was contributing £60,000 to two voluntary bodies to help to enforce human rights around the world, and called on other nations to show real commitment to human rights by increasing their funding of monitoring machinery.

Addressing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva yesterday, Douglas Hogg, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, criticised the lack of progress in UN enforcement of human

rights. "It is pointless for this commission to pass resolution after resolution calling for adequate funding for mandates when the resources allocated to human rights remain so woefully inadequate," he said. Britain would immediately give £30,000 each to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation and the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

He also said the UN should intensify its work in enforcing the rights of women. He called especially for swift action

to stop the genital mutilation of young girls in many parts of the world. He also denounced legislation in some countries that prevents women from opening bank accounts. Praising the appointment at last year's UN commission meeting of a special rapporteur on violence against women, he gave a warning against complacency. He said the Peking conference on women next year had to produce "a sensible, useful document with practical ideas and goals".

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## Clinton hit by another nomination debacle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S efforts to boost his popularity by intervening in America's baseball strike were being undermined yesterday by yet another debacle over a nominee for a top government job.

Congressional support for Henry Foster, who Mr Clinton nominated on Thursday as Surgeon-General, was evaporating as details of his record surfaced.

At issue was not just Dr Foster's performance of abortions, but his veracity. Congressmen were first told he had performed just one abortion, then "fewer than a dozen", and now — his opponents allege — 700. Pro-choice groups also disclosed that the black Nashville obstetrician led a study in which women were given a drug to induce abortions.

The White House suddenly has a crisis on its hands. Erskine Bowles, a deputy chief of staff, has been put in charge of an emergency fact-finding mission. Dr Foster was summoned to the White House on Monday night to answer questions. Officials have been dispatched to Tennessee to scrutinise his records and establish the truth. "The next time we utter a number it won't be based on Dr Foster's recollections," a Health Department spokesman said.

Mr Clinton is in an acute dilemma. The nomination has clearly become a liability, but to abandon Dr Foster would reinforce the public perception of the President as weak and irresolute. Some Democratic insiders believe abandoning Dr Foster would goad Jesse Jackson into challenging Mr Clinton for the Democrats' 1996 presidential nomination.

Moderate Republicans have now joined their more conservative colleagues in doubting that Dr Foster can be confirmed when hearings begin

in March. Even Bill Frist, a Republican senator from Tennessee who is a friend of Dr Foster and attended his White House nomination ceremony, is equivocating.

Congressional Democrats are stunned at the continued incompetence of a White House whose failure to conduct background checks led to the abrupt abandonment of at least three nominees in Mr Clinton's early days.

Indeed, Mr Clinton was confident that in Dr Foster he had found the perfect nominee to replace Joycelyn Elders, the previous Surgeon-General he dismissed when her support for abortion rights and free school condoms made her a target for conservatives. Dr Foster was a vigorous campaigner against teenage pregnancies and was honoured by President Bush.

Mr Clinton appeared to be playing his cards rather more cannily on the six-month-old baseball strike which most Americans want resolved. With spring training starting in a week, he summoned players and owners to a five-hour meeting. The meeting failed to produce an agreement, but Mr Clinton announced he would send Congress legislation forcing the parties into binding arbitration.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, said Congress had no business intervening in a labour dispute, but on this issue Mr Clinton would appear to have public opinion behind him. And while Mr Clinton ended a long search for a new CIA director yesterday by nominating Michael Carns, formerly second-in-command of the US Air Force, Matthew Miller, a senior aide on his economic team, resigned in protest at his failure to tackle the budget deficit more aggressively.



Margaret O'Brien expresses her gratitude for the unexpected return of her Oscar

## Child star wins back Oscar after 40 years

Los Angeles: An Oscar statuette that child actress Margaret O'Brien won a half century ago, only to have it stolen about ten years later, was returned to her on Tuesday by two men who bought it at a neighbourhood sale.

"It's amazing," O'Brien, now 57, said. "I never thought it would be returned."

O'Brien, who was four when she made her screen debut in *Babes on Broadway*, won the special Oscar for outstanding child actress in 1945. Sometime in the mid-to-late 1950s, a housekeeper caring for O'Brien's ailing



Eight-year-old O'Brien with the award in 1944

mother stole the statuette and two other awards received from magazines. O'Brien said.

Steve Neimand and Mark Nash bought the Oscar and the two other missing awards for \$500 (£325) last December at a Pasadena City College "swap meet" where vendors spread out their wares in outdoor stalls. The Oscar was then spotted in a catalogue for an auction and a close friend of O'Brien's confirmed that it was hers. Mr Neimand and Mr Nash agreed to return the Oscar and other items. (Reuters)

## Korean move on reactors angers US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NORTH KOREA has bewildered Washington by abruptly trying to redraft the terms of the nuclear agreement reached with the United States last October.

Negotiators from the isolated Stalinist state have rejected plans for South Korea to provide two light-water nuclear reactors as replacements for North Korea's existing nuclear programme, which UN inspectors believed was designed to produce atom bombs. At the same time, the North Koreans are asking the Americans to provide up to \$1 billion (£645 million) in extra funds for a new power grid to carry electricity when the replacement reactors are ready for use.

Clinton Administration officials yesterday described the twin claims as outrageous. Officials said the Administration would not back down over the reactors.

## Arianna returns to limelight despite husband's poll defeat

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

UNFAZED by her husband's costly election loss, Arianna Huffington is back in Washington with a vengeance.

On the day Michael Huffington finally conceded defeat in his California Senate race three months ago, his Greek-born wife organised a small fund-raising dinner where the tickets cost \$50,000 (£31,940). The event was a "neon sign" that Arianna Huffington has returned in triumph.

The Washington Post reported yesterday. The attraction for the 15 entrepreneurs, developers and financial advisers was to share roast rack of lamb with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, whose critics accused him of using his office improperly as a magnet for big money. However, he replied that the finance was not for a secret project but National Empowerment Television, a non-profit, conservative cable network, which carries his weekly phone-in programme.

Mrs Huffington swept into the dinner at the Hay-Adams Hotel, opposite the White

House, wearing a Valentino pantsuit that she had bought during a sale at the designer's boutique. She explained that it was silly to spend full price for beautiful clothes when by waiting a few months she could get them for half price.

Some wondered if her thrift was the result of Mr Huffington having spent \$28 million of his Texan oil fortune on his failed campaign. He



Mrs Huffington: riding out disappointment

gamely paid \$50,000 for his wife's dinner, which she said was "not that much".

Mrs Huffington, a former president of the Cambridge Union and an American citizen since 1990, scuppered speculation that she would ever run for political office, but she clearly intends to be at the centre of power. She has become a director of the Progress and Freedom Foundation, Mr Gingrich's favourite think-tank.

Mrs Huffington is putting together her own television pilot, *Beat the Press*, intended to highlight foibles and errors in the media. She is also finishing her seventh book, *What Did You Do In the Revolution, Mommy?* which includes a chapter entitled "California on \$25,000 a Day".

This week's *New Yorker*, reviewing her recent chat-show appearances, says: "She has staged a comeback worthy of a Broadway star. While Candidate Huffington is missing from Earth, having his brain rewired back on the mother ship, his wife has been omnipresent".

## Trade replaces aid as Ottawa priority

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

TRADE has replaced human rights and humanitarian aid as the number one priority in Canada's long-awaited new foreign policy.

The policy was announced this week by André Ouellet, Canada's Foreign Minister, and Roy MacLaren, the International Trade Minister, an indication of the importance the 14-month Liberal Govern-

ment of Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, attaches to foreign trade. M Chrétien has travelled the world since he was elected, preaching free trade and the removal of trade barriers everywhere he has gone.

While the old foreign policy emphasised humanitarian aid, human rights and military alliances, M Ouellet said the new policy would be based on prosperity, security and the promotion of Canadian values and culture.

Security is no longer defined as merely military security but will now include refugee problems, environmental disasters and international crime. Critics are calling the new policy "trade not aid" and predict that leading international aid organisations will see their Government grants severely cut in the next budget.

## UN tries again in Angola

New York: The United Nations Security Council was poised last night to approve a big new peacekeeping operation in Angola, to which Britain is expected to contribute almost 700 troops (James Bone writes).

The council was due to vote on sending more than 7,000 peacekeepers to give the country a second chance after a previous UN-monitored peace settlement collapsed. The council resolution said the first 2,800 UN troops would be sent immediately, but that the bulk of the force would not be sent unless both the Government and UNITA rebels co-operated with the mission.

## Nigeria ruler sacks Cabinet

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military dictator, dissolved his civilian Cabinet in a surprise move seen as a possible step toward increasing hardliners in the Government. General Abacha had hinted at a reshuffle but was expected to wait until a national constitutional conference finished its work on the best way to return Nigeria to civilian rule. The dictator seized power in November 1993, after the military refused to recognise the victory of Chief Moshod Abiola in an aborted general election. (AP)

## Court jails dead men

Turin: A court here sentenced Tommaso Cerrada, a small-time criminal from Calabria, to 24 years in prison for murder, two months after he had been shot dead in a battle between rival gangs. The court only discovered the truth after it had jailed another man for the same murder, and then discovered that he, too, had been killed two months earlier. The killings, part of a vendetta between rival gangs of the N'drangheta, the Calabrian mafia, were reported in the press at the time. (AFP)

## America hails new miracle cure-all

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DRINK made from a blob-like white fungus known as "Kombucha" is being hailed in America as a "miracle tea" that can lower blood pressure, raise the body's immunity, wipe out acne, ease arthritis and even stop gray hair.

An estimated three million Americans now ferment the fungus — which reproduces itself every seven to 10 days — into a cider-like brew that is America's latest health fad.

Devotees swear that it is a "miracle cure", but sceptics suggest it is more of a miracle of marketing, and could even be dangerous.

Sometimes known as the "Manchurian mushroom", Kombucha has been used as a folk remedy in China and Russia for two millennia. Experts say that it is a collection of yeasts living symbiotically with several bacteria that produce a powerful antibiotic.

Some doctors say that Kombucha could absorb impurities from the air and become contaminated. The US Food and Drug Administration has received reports of adverse reactions, but has launched a precautionary investigation.

## O.J. Simpson trial lawyers focus on time a dog barked

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE howling of a dog has become the unlikely focus of the O.J. Simpson murder trial as prosecutors try to pinpoint the time that Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed.

With no witnesses to the deaths, Marcia Clark, the Assistant District Attorney, has had to rely on a neighbour's evidence about a dog's "plaintive wailing" as she tries to persuade the jury that the former football star had time to carry out the killings before catching a flight to Chicago.

A dog assumed to be Ms Brown Simpson's white Akita began barking "at a significant pitch" between 10.15pm and 10.20pm on the night of the murders last June. Pablo Fenjves said. "It sounded like a very unhappy animal," he told the Los Angeles court. Mr Fenjves, a screenwriter and former journalist, remembered the time to within five minutes because the barking began as he went upstairs after watching the ten o'clock news. He said that he was a creature of habit and always watched the first 15 to 20 minutes of the bulletin.

In an exhaustive cross-examination, Johnnie Cochran, one of the defence team, forced Mr Fenjves to admit that he did not see the dog that night, was not an expert on dogs or barking, and could state only vaguely where the barking came from. Mr Cochran tried

and failed to get Mr Fenjves to say the barking might have started as late as 10.30pm, but he did show that police notes of a conversation with the witness the day after the murders were inaccurate.

Such legal chess moves may say more about the esteem in which pets are held in California than about the killings of Mr Simpson's former wife and Mr Goldman, but they are likely to be replayed as prosecutors try to pin down facts about the murders and the defendant's lawyers try to sow seeds of doubt in jurors' minds.

That doubt may already be forming, according to a report in yesterday's Los Angeles *Daily News* on the dismissal of a juror from the panel on Tuesday. Officially excused because she went to the same arthritis doctor as Mr Simpson, the 63-year-old white woman had also been involved in disputes with some of her black colleagues, after accusing them of prematurely forming sympathies for Mr Simpson, the newspaper reported.

The doctor in question appears to be the first Briton directly involved in the trial. Identified in a brief CBS interview on Tuesday as Dr Bertram Maltz, he trained in Liverpool and said he had carefully guarded his anonymity since the case began. The trial continues today.

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# Nato shifts focus of security concern to Mediterranean

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN A marked shift of emphasis away from their traditional concerns to the east, Nato members yesterday agreed to divert some of their diplomatic attention to the security risks on the alliance's southern flank around the Mediterranean.

Nato ambassadors agreed at their weekly meeting yesterday to open a dialogue on security issues with five North African and Middle Eastern states after sustained efforts by the French and Spanish Governments to widen the alliance's priorities. Talks will be held with Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania.

"This alliance also has to project stability to the south," said Carlos Miranda, Spain's Ambassador to Nato. "In no

way is this a confrontational move; we have to be careful about instability and insecurity around us."

Algeria, whose Government is locked in an increasingly murderous battle with Islamic militants, was pointedly left off the list. Israel was included at American insistence and Spain requested Mauritania's inclusion. The new links will be confined to talks between officials for the moment, although some Nato officials hope that some countries might be drawn into close co-operation similar to Nato's Partnership for Peace, which covers neutral and former Warsaw Pact states.

Britain has accepted the initiative but only on condition that it remains at the level of informal consultation and

does not lead to any military or political commitments.

"Nato is still fundamentally an East-West organisation; to start a dialogue with the Maghreb is a bit of a new direction," one British diplomat said. "We see it as no more than a channel for north African states to discuss security questions. We are not seeking to advise them on how to stem fundamentalism."

The decision to open a fresh diplomatic front reflects Nato anxiety about nuclear proliferation and intelligence assessments which predict that several Mediterranean states have, or will soon have, nuclear weapons.

Yesterday's meeting also underscores Nato's readiness to adopt some of France's strategic agenda as French politicians move towards practical re-integration into the alliance, while remaining formally semi-detached. Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, told German leaders last week that Muslim fundamentalism now posed as serious a threat to Nato states as Communism once did.

But even if the opening exchanges with the five chosen states go well, Nato's dialogue with its southern neighbours is unlikely to develop as its relationship with its former Warsaw Pact enemies has done. A number of East European states are coming closer to Nato because their economic recovery and political stability should qualify them to enter the alliance before the end of the century.

With the exception of Israel, the states to which Nato will talk more frequently face increasing, not decreasing, internal instability and are unlikely ever to be candidates for full membership.

Leading article, page 17

## Algiers leaders jailed as top gangster killed

By MICHAEL BINYON

THE head of an armed gang believed to be responsible for the murder of a police chief has been killed by security forces, according to reports in Algiers yesterday. The incident was the latest in the violence across the country, and comes after the authorities re-arrested two leaders of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Abassi Madani, the FIS president, and Ali Belhaj, his deputy, were returned to Blida military prison after being released from jail last year as a conciliatory gesture.

The Government accused them of refusing to condemn the terror, in particular last month's bombing of the Algiers police headquarters, which killed 42 people and

wounded more than 280. The re-arrest of the men makes the prospect of a negotiated end to the civil war more distant.

Violence has increased steadily in recent weeks, after a call by the FIS and the Armed Islamic Group for more deaths. Two people were killed and several others injured on Monday in an attack on a cafe in a Berber village. The daily newspaper *Liberte* said yesterday that two 23-year-olds were also killed in another cafe in Tizi Ouzou, in a region that has opposed militants.

In Egypt clashes continued between militants and security forces. A policeman was shot dead in Assiut, a centre of militancy, by suspected members of Gamaa al-Islamiya.



Marshal Pilsudski, left, no lover of parliamentary democracy before the war, and Lech Walesa, his successor as Polish head of state

## Walesa draws strength from dictator idol

By ROGER BOYES

LECH WALESA, like his idol Marshal Pilsudski, is no great lover of parliament. Pilsudski once ordered the police to drag Communist deputies out of their seats; inevitably, the inter-war leader slipped from being a national hero to virtual dictator.

Now President Walesa has polished up his bronze bust of the earlier Polish leader and told a radio interviewer: "Democracy has come to pose a threat to itself in Poland."

His threat to destroy yet another Government and to dissolve Parliament touched a nerve not only in Poland but also in the West. Disappointment with President Yeltsin and the Russian forces' intervention in Chechnya seem to strengthen the case for Central Europe to be admitted quickly to Nato and the European Union.

But President Walesa's erratic behaviour, his slipshod treatment of democratic institutions, has shaken even his most enthusiastic supporters in the West. In Poland itself his fan club is an endangered species; rarely does he command more than 20 per cent in popularity polls.

One report — promptly denied but widely believed — was that President Walesa was planning to replace Waldemar Pawlak, the Prime Minister, with General Tadeusz Wilecki, the Chief of Staff, whose military career has been actively encouraged by the President and his shadowy advisers. What is Nato to make of that?

One of the conditions of future Nato membership, is democratically accountable

### President Walesa's destruction of yet another Polish Government has touched a raw nerve among Western leaders

civilian control of the military, yet the Polish President has ensured that the Defence Minister's job has been unfilled for months and has been plainly exploiting his nominal role as supreme commander to play political games with members of the general staff. The President has become the master of chaos, interpreting democracy as a process of continual confrontation.

The most commonly accepted explanation runs as follows: Mr Walesa is preparing for a presidential contest in November. His chances of reelection are poor; almost any potential rival fares better in opinion polls. The toughest

contender could well be Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former Communist minister who has slickly recast himself as a social democratic market reformer. He is popular with women, uses a sun bed, plays tennis and is in almost every respect a modern Western-style politician. President Walesa's response could be to trigger a change of government and place Mr Kwasniewski in the Prime Minister's chair. That would expose Mr Kwasniewski to the usual criticism levelled at prime ministers.

This is a rather cynical reading of Mr Walesa's intentions, tantamount to accusing



the former electrician of riding roughshod over infant democratic institutions in pursuit of personal power. It is, however, consistent with what is known about Mr Walesa's closest advisers, including Mieczyslaw Wachowski, his former chauffeur.

"Walesa is respected as the man who fought and won against the Communists in 1980 and again in 1989," a Western diplomat says. "He is now being crudely advised by courtiers whose concern is solely with power, to re-stage the battles of the past."

Yet the Polish President is not quite such an empty vessel. Over the past four years he has at least started to question the meaning of presidential power in Poland, rather than merely to echo his advisers' complaints that he does not have enough of it. His historical mission, he realises, is to

be Lech the Reformer. Even if democratic regulations have to be discarded and ignored, there is a need for someone at the top to prod constantly in the direction of radical change. "Step down now!" he told parliamentary deputies this week. "Poland has no time for idling engines when the traffic lights are on green."

This was Walesa's revolutionary temperament speaking. He is, however, right to be frustrated with the governing coalition. It came to power 18 months ago with a virtual two-thirds majority and was thus in a much stronger position than any post-1989 government. But it has achieved little in terms of reform. Mr Pawlak had a distrust of privatisation and, despite some grudging public statements, of the European Union. He was in no sense a moderniser and sometimes makes spectacularly wrong decisions — such as floating a repressive Bill restricting press freedom.

President Walesa has always understood the presidential role as part of a system of checks and balances, speaking up for the people in opposition to the Government of the day. But his constitutional power does not give him that kind of authority; he is, in no way a counterweight to the Parliament or Government. His restricted powers fall far short of the Gaullist or Pilsudskite authority that he craves. He is greatly and constantly tempted to break out of this constitutional straitjacket. So far he has not done so.

Roger Boyes is the author of *The Naked President, a biography of Lech Walesa*, published by Secker & Warburg.



Oleksy: no opposition from President Walesa

### Polish coalition turns to ex-Communist

Warsaw: Jozef Oleksy, the Polish parliamentary Speaker, began talks yesterday about forming a Cabinet after President Walesa was said to have approved him as the country's Prime Minister.

The left-wing coalition Government chose Mr Oleksy, 48, after deciding to drop Waldemar Pawlak, the incumbent, during a crisis meeting on Tuesday night which was called after weeks of political pressure from Mr Walesa, and a threat by him to dissolve Parliament.

"The President is not opposed to the nomination of Jozef Oleksy for Prime Minister," Mr Walesa's office said in a statement, adding that the

two men would meet soon, perhaps today. The President had accused Mr Pawlak's 16-month-old administration of inactivity over market reforms and said he had sheltered several ministers suspected of corruption.

Mr Oleksy is an economist with a reputation for compromise. He will be the first member of the pre-1989 Communist Government to lead a democratic administration. The change could signal a shift of power within the uneasy coalition from Mr Pawlak's Prime Minister to Mr Oleksy's larger Democratic Left Alliance but negotiations on key posts are bound to be tough. (Reuters)

### BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 10 FEBRUARY 1995

Account	Amount Invested	Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Ordinary	£1+	0.00	0.00	-	-
Timesaver	£1+	0.00	0.00	-	-
	£250+	1.15	0.86	-	-
	£1,000+	2.15	1.61	-	-
First Choice	£20+	2.10	1.58	-	-
(Including Bonus)	£200+	4.25	3.19	-	-
	£3,000+	4.80	3.60	-	-
	£10,000+	5.25	3.94	-	-
	£25,000+	5.85	4.39	-	-
Special Asset	£2,500+	4.85	3.64	4.75	3.56
	£5,000+	5.35	4.01	5.20	3.90
	£10,000+	6.35	4.76	6.15	4.61
	£20,000+	6.75	5.06	6.55	4.91
	£40,000+	6.95	5.21	6.75	5.06
	£80,000+	7.25	5.44	7.05	5.29
Classic II TESSA*		6.25	-	-	-
High-Return II TESSA*		6.55	-	-	-
High-Return II Feeder		6.55	5.21	-	-
Premier Deposit	£100+	1.85	1.39	-	-
	£1,000+	5.05	3.79	-	-
	£25,000+	5.80	4.35	-	-

### ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Account	Amount Invested	Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
One Month	£1+	3.85	2.89	3.80	2.85
Notice Account	£2500+	4.40	3.30	4.30	3.25
	£25,000+	5.35	4.01	5.20	3.90
	£50,000+	5.85	4.39	5.70	4.28
Bonus (inc. full bonus)	£1,000+	4.50	3.38	-	-
	£10,000+	5.50	4.13	-	-
Options 6	£2,500+	5.50	4.13	5.35	4.01
Vantage Bond 2	£3,000+	6.50	4.88	6.30	4.73
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.75	5.06
Vantage Bond 3	£3,000+	6.50	4.88	6.30	4.73
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.75	5.06
	£50,000+	7.25	5.44	6.95	5.21
	£100,000+	7.40	5.55	7.10	5.33
Annual	£10,000+	6.65	4.99	6.55	4.91
	£20,000+	7.05	5.29	6.95	5.20
Premier Access (S & D)	£1+	2.35	1.76	-	-
Extra Interest	£1+	2.35	1.76	-	-
Extra Income	£1+	-	-	2.35	1.76
Real Gold (inc. full bonus)	£1+	3.80	2.85	-	-
Flexible Savings (inc. full bonus)	£1+	2.15	1.60	-	-
Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
High Flyer Issue 1	£1,000+	3.50	2.63	-	-
	£10,000+	4.50	3.38	-	-
Super 90	£1,000+	4.40	3.30	-	-
	£25,000+	5.40	4.05	-	-
	£10,000+	-	-	4.50	3.38
SAVE (5 Year)		8.50	-	-	-
SAVE (7 Year)		8.62	-	-	-
Spa TESSA 1*		6.55	-	-	-
Spa TESSA 2*		6.05	-	-	-
TESSA High Return Feeder 1		6.50	5.18	-	-
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Optimum TESSA 1		5.80	4.35	5.80	4.35
Classic TESSA 1		5.80	4.35	5.80	4.35
High Return TESSA 1		6.80	5.18	6.80	5.18

Interest rates are variable and are correct at time of going to press. Net equivalents assume the current basic rate of interest rate of 25%. Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Net rates quoted are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. \*This category (five of interest tax).

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## French comrades see the error of old Soviet ways

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FOUR years after the collapse of the old Kremlin, the French Communist Party has concluded finally that the Soviet Union was not an overall success.

Robert Hue, the chief of the Western party most favoured by the old Soviet leadership, saddened the dwindling band of diehard comrades with a television statement in which he reversed their doctrine that Russia's experience with Communism was "globally positive". Until his appearance on Monday night, M Hue, who is running as a presidential candidate, had avoided amending the formula that was laid down by Georges Marchais, his predecessor, in 1979.

Pushed by an interviewer, M Hue, 48, drew a deep breath and said: "The record was not globally positive. I think it had very strong, dominant dark sides. There were some positive elements, but they were minor compared with the whole." He added: "The regimes of the Eastern countries were the perversion of Communism... We were wrong not to break sooner with that model."

M Hue, who claims to command about 500,000

members, said it was time to examine why the party had continued to support the Soviet system for so long. The party, which came close to power after the wartime liberation and which fielded four ministers in the first administration of President Mitterrand, remained loyal to the "Soviet model" long after the Italian, Spanish and most other Western parties had espoused "Euro-communism" and criticised Moscow.

M Marchais, 74, supported the Afghanistan invasion of 1979 and has still not abandoned the faith. Under M Hue, the party has carried out a limited purge of its ideology and still carries measurable political weight, mainly through its affiliated CGT trade union. M Hue, a jovial, bearded, former nurse, is campaigning for the presidency with demands for taxes on the rich, hefty rises in wages and measures to renationalise recently privatised enterprises.

On foreign policy, M Hue still speaks highly of some Communist "models", notably that of Cuba. He has based his campaign on the theme of combat against "fascist rot", or the rule of money.

## Turkish warplane crashes after chase near Rhodes

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A TURKISH warplane crashed after being intercepted and chased by Greek fighters near the Aegean island of Rhodes yesterday, threatening to worsen the already fraught relations between Greece and Turkey.

The Turkish pilot ejected and was reported to be recovering in hospital in Rhodes last night. A coastguard official in Rhodes said that four Turkish F16s violated Greek airspace and were intercepted by four Greek F4 Phantom fighters.

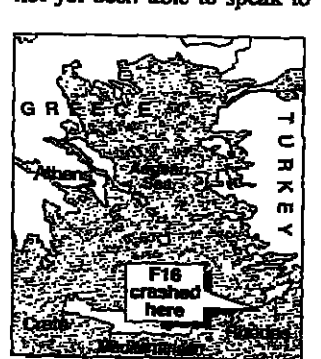
In Ankara, however, a military spokesman said that the Turkish Air Force F16 was flying in international airspace and crashed in the Aegean during a training flight. The Turkish aircraft crashed on its way back to Turkey because of pilot error, the official added, after being pursued by two Greek Mirage F1s scrambled from Heraklion air base in Crete to intercept the Turkish aircraft.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Yildirim, the pilot, was picked up by a Greek coastguard vessel. Greece was arranging for his return to the Dalaman air base in Turkey last night.

The incident reflects the sour relations between the two Nato allies which frequently

feud over territorial rights in the Aegean.

Last night Turkey tried to play down the prospect of a new diplomatic rift because of the crashed jet. "I do not believe the incident to be of a magnitude to increase tension in Greece-Turkey relations," Murat Karayalcin, the Foreign Minister, said. "We have not yet been able to speak to



the pilot. [We] will make an evaluation after speaking to him."

Tense relations between the two neighbours, which nearly went to war in 1987 over mineral rights in the Aegean, have deteriorated in recent months. The Greek Government sent a draft Bill to parliament in January which would clear the way for ex-

tending the country's territorial waters from six to 12 miles. Turkey has said such an extension would virtually turn the Aegean into a "Greek lake" and warned Athens that the move would be a cause for war.

There are four main sources of tension between Greece and Turkey: Cyprus, which Turkey invaded in 1974 and which has been divided into Greek and Turkish-populated sides ever since; and three territorial disputes relating to coastal waters, the continental shelf, and — at the heart of yesterday's incident — air space. Turkish jet fighters are often accused of violating Greek airspace over Rhodes. The island is part of the Dodecanese chain, part of which lies just a few miles off the Turkish coast.

Greece and Turkey have also been quarrelling over the treatment of a Muslim minority in Greece and Ankara's efforts to forge a customs union with the European Union. European foreign ministers agreed in principle on Monday to proceed with a customs union, which Greece has been blocking, in return for setting a date to start talks with Cyprus to join the European Union.

## Atlantic swimmer finds serenity

Paris: A Frenchman swimming the Atlantic is on the verge of completing his journey in Barbados today but is worried about rejoining society after almost two months at sea.

"The return to humanity risks being a bit tough," Guy Delage, 42, said from the raft accompanying him since he set out from Cape Verde on December 16. "I'm coming back from a virgin, uncorrupted place... where I have found serenity," he said in a

radio interview off the coast of Barbados after a 2,420 mile crossing plagued by mishaps. He said his arrival would silence critics who predicted he would drown. "If I make it I'll say: 'That's it, fine. I'm not completely mad.'"

M Delage spends about six to eight hours a day in the water and the rest on the 13ft-long raft, where he rests and sleeps while drifting along. He admits he has swum well under half the distance. As he nears his goal, M Delage is

not out of danger. He had to scramble aboard his raft after a 10ft grey shark swam up unnoticed on Tuesday. A few weeks ago, he kicked another shark on the nose as it came at him, jaws agape.

The flying instructor and adventurer defends his trip both as a feat of endurance and as helping scientific research. He takes notes on everything from the performance of his flippers to observing shoals of fish that often swim with him. (Reuters)

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# Under Philby's spell

**Richard Beeston**  
has a reunion in  
Moscow with the  
widow of a  
charming traitor,  
and finds her  
still in love

There is no doubt that Rufina Philby was, and still is, very much in love with Kim. "I had the most wonderful 18 years of my life with Kim," she says. And somehow you believe her.

That hesitant, boyish charm of Kim Philby had worked its way on Rufina, as it had on his other wives, friends and colleagues, who were prepared over and over again to forgive his demonic drinking bouts, his deceptions and betrayals.

I can recall the adoration of his previous wife, Eleanor Brewer, as he courted her in Beirut in the 1950s, and a similar effect that he had on Rufina when, as correspondent in Moscow, I met them both at the Bolshoi in the late 1970s. Last week I was in Moscow again and had dinner with Kim's widow in his old flat. I could see that, after all those years, his magic still worked. His presence had been uncannily kept alive by Rufina so that one could imagine him sitting, typing in the next room.

The winter pavements of Moscow were, as usual, covered in black ice as my wife Moyra and I slid across Pushkin Square and turned down a snow-covered lane, Trichoprudny Pereulok, to the former Philby hideout.

After suffering from decades of communist neglect, the lower floors of his apartment building are now in the grip of capitalism and an American firm is noisily converting them into a modern, smoked-glass office complex. But up the shabby stairs the padded steel door installed against the wave of crime that has hit Moscow opens into Philby's unreconstructed flat, full of mementos and heavy furniture.

With a large hallway, sitting-room and study, it is spacious by Moscow standards, as befitting a senior officer in the KGB who was probably the most successful of the Kremlin's foreign spies and whose portrait even appeared on a Soviet postage stamp. In the old days the apartment had a permanent guard to protect Philby, and to watch him.

With the KGB's watching eye no longer there, Rufina now rarely goes out, rarely entertains. She is an attractive, intelligent, softly-spoken woman in her late fifties with dyed auburn hair. Her photograph, which still sits on Kim's desk, testifies to the stunning young woman he married.

Her widow's pension has all but disappeared in post-communist inflation. The value of the rouble has plummeted from about one rouble to the pound to the current rate of 6,000. It was to make ends meet, she says, that she decided last year to auction off at Sotheby's some of her husband's books, letters and personal belongings.



Rufina Philby in her Moscow flat: Kim told her that he had decided within seconds of their meeting that he would marry her

Over a dinner of sturgeon, zakuski, vodka and Georgian wine, she told us how she first met Kim on a blind-date in 1970 arranged by her friend, Ida, the wife of another British spy, George Blake. Kim had defected seven years earlier and by that time had broken with Eleanor and ended his relationship with the spy Donald Maclean's American wife, Melinda.

Kim Philby was reported by then to be in very bad shape, a pathetic drunk, unemployed by the KGB, who occasionally tried unsuccessfully to dry him out. Rufina claims credit for his rehabilitation, and certainly when I met them eight years later, he was sober, amusing and in far better shape than in his years in Beirut where he had known him.

However, she reacted angrily when a reference was made to a book written by General Oleg Kalugin, the KGB's former Deputy Director of Counter-Intelligence. Kalugin said that he had arrived at Philby's flat to find him leaning against the door totally drunk, and that it was Kalugin who helped to rehabilitate him, and arranged for him to take part in espionage training schemes for Soviet agents.

Rufina told us that she was deeply hurt about books written on Kim and had written her own account of her life with him. She

was now looking for an English publisher. She also disclosed that she had the original manuscript of Kim's book, *My Secret War*, which she said had been heavily censored by the KGB before publication.

British intelligence officials were impressed by the professionalism of the book which gave

Up the shabby stairs and behind the padded door his memory was still being kept uncannily alive

absolutely nothing away — not even hinting at the method of Philby's escape from Lebanon to the Soviet Union after being confronted with the proof that his game was up. A comparison of what Philby left in and what the KGB took out should make a fascinating study for anyone interested in the intelligence world during the Cold War.

When Rufina met Kim at the *American Ballet On Ice*, she had no English and he only basic

Russian. But he said to her in Russian: "Please take off your glasses, I would like to see your eyes." Later he told her that he had decided within seconds of their meeting that he would marry her.

"Kim was so English," she said. While he spent more and more time listening to the World Service of the BBC, Rufina told me she began teaching herself English, largely through reading romantic novels, until she was more fluent in English than he was in Russian.

Despite the Sotheby's sale, the apartment was still full of mementos. While we were having dinner I noticed a large Italian engraving of a column in Rome entitled, "Colonna Antonino". "Where did that come from?" I asked her.

"An anonymous man handed it in to the Soviet Embassy in London and asked for it to be sent to Kim in Moscow," Rufina said. "We realised later that it was a present from Kim's friend, Anthony Blunt."

Philby's study has been left pretty much as it was on the day he died. There was a photo of him as a pipe-smoking young undergraduate at Cambridge, photos of Rufina, a portrait of Che Guevara and an old photograph of the Normandy Hotel in Beirut where I occasionally met Kim at the bar when we were both working for British newspapers.

I got to know him well and despite his "third man" reputation, I was sufficiently naive not to believe that he was a Soviet agent. Years later I met him at the Bolshoi when I had already been in Moscow for six months, unable to procure an office or anywhere to live from the government agency in sole charge of these matters. In frustration, I was preparing to give up and return to Washington when I mentioned my problem to Kim during an intermission.

"I still have one or two contacts here. I'll see what I can do," he said. The next day I was phoned by a man from the ministry to say that an apartment had been allocated and that we could move in immediately.

In Russia you are never sure, even today, how things work — but I had a suspicion who was behind that decision. "I am glad you got your flat at last," said Kim in a letter he sent after I had moved in.

"I would like to think it was the result of a few telephone calls I made after our meeting at the Bolshoi. But then again, it may have been a coincidence."

I asked Rufina if she remembered the episode. "Oh yes," she said. "Kim was so happy. He said it is not often you are able to do things to help old friends."

Richard Beeston is the father of the Times's Moscow correspondent.

## Proud to be a provincial in the High Court

Jayne Willetts, top lawyer relishes her Brummie base, says Margot Norman

Somehow, the words "first female solicitor to be granted the right to appear in civil cases in the High Court" do not conjure up the image of an attractive, leggy young woman who rides to hounds and says she specialises in "wider litigation" in Birmingham.

One imagines a weary veteran of the big-money, big-hours regime in a high-powered City firm like Slaughter & May, deservedly nicknamed the Slaughterhouse; but there is no weariness in the long stride of Jayne Willetts, who gets into her office by eight, takes off her blazing red swing-coat, rolls up her sleeves and is generally out again by five.

As a single mother with a baby of 18 months, she has learnt more than most lawyers about the importance of getting to the point, and not wasting time.

Not that she had all that much to learn in that department: she chaired the Warwickshire young solicitors' group almost as soon as she qualified in 1982, went on to chair the Law Society's national committee for solicitors aged under 36 and now sits on a whole range of local, national and international legal bodies. A natural enemy of legal waffle, she certainly will not be one of those advocates the judges have to tick off for longwindedness.

She is now one of only 45 solicitors to have earned by examination what the Law Society calls "an extremely gruelling intensive advocacy course" the right to appear for their clients instead of, or alongside, a barrister in High Court litigation. The other 44 are all men, so it will be a while before what the lawyers call "mixed doubles" — a solicitor and a QC acting together — means what the layman would take it to mean. (A handful of women have already jumped the hurdles to a right of audience in criminal cases, but most of the solicitors now exempted from the exam by virtue of sitting as assistant recorders).

To have spent your working life in a big City firm is, in fact, a disadvantage in this particular race because you are unlikely to meet the eligibility criteria for the advocacy exam. (There's a bit of a Catch-22 here: you must have done some before they'll teach you to do more.) Better to have worked, as Jayne Willetts did after she qualified in 1982, in a small provincial firm where "everybody had to do everything, including appearing in front of magistrates".

Miss Willetts is proud of being a provincial lawyer. Now one of 60 partners in Edge and Ellison, one of Birmingham's big law firms, she relishes being a power in the local commercial community. She had enough of London as a law student at University College and the College of Law at Lancaster Gate, where she got 3 per cent in her first accounts exam and 97 per cent the following term. ("At first I didn't understand any of it, but a term later I did: I'm not an academically brilliant lawyer, but I'm an all-

rounder and a communicator.") Returning to live near a support network of parents and childhood friends outside Birmingham was a sensible move.

"You should have been here on Friday, when the Lord Mayor led a big procession to open our new court buildings and said he was fed-up with hearing Birmingham being called England's second city. This was ridiculous, he said, because London was no longer a city at all, but a Balkan enclave of 33 warring boroughs."

Miss Willetts is also proud of Birmingham's new mercantile court, an innovation that has, she says, been a resounding success. "It saves people a lot of time and money, not having to take cases to London. We have one full-time judge, and we need another one."

Partners at Edge and Ellison

charge £140 to £160 an hour, and this one is undoubtedly on the same wavelength as her no-nonsense corporate clients who say time is money, and going to court is a mug's game unless you absolutely have to. "Only a bad solicitor would take a bad case to court. Some do, because they can't see the thing clearly enough and it all rumbles on towards the courts like a runaway train. They should have got it sorted out long before."

The daughter of a civil engineer and a teacher, she was the odd one out at the girl's grammar school in Shalford, in wanting to be a solicitor. The other ones wanted to be social workers, apart from the cleverest one, who wanted to be a vet. Neither she nor the careers people at school knew much about law, but it sounded interesting and she now says she couldn't have chosen a better career.

Jayne Willetts is above all practical, but thinks herself no more so than women in general, who are for that reason an asset to the profession. ("Unlike men, they only tend to volunteer for things they are confident they can actually do.") Her firm apparently agrees: the commercial litigation department has four female partners and three male. One forges some entertaining legal tennis, ladies as well as mixed doubles, in the High Court before long.

Jayne Willetts: hates waffle

## Are the grouse-hunters better conservationists than the greens?

Magnus Linklater believes that naturalists should come out from under cover and leave the balancing of nature to sporting landowners

THERE is a story told about the old Duke of Westminster returning home after a successful shoot on his Derbyshire grouse moor. One of his guests, turning to his host, asked him what he believed was the key to a well-run grouse moor.

"Money," answered the duke. He might have added: "And no bloody interference from so-called conservationists."

In those days a decent-sized grouse moor would have a small army of gamekeepers whose job it was to ensure that grouse stocks remained high. That meant not only maintaining the heather by burning it regularly and carefully, but keeping down "predators", among which they would have included birds of prey which are now protected species.

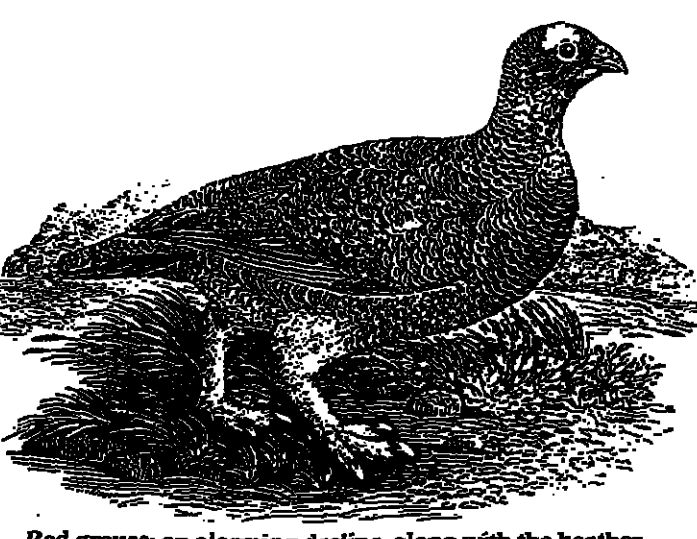
Today the golden eagle is safe, if still rare, and so are the peregrine and the hen harrier. But there has been an uncomfortable side-effect: There has been an alarming decline in the numbers of red grouse, particularly in Scotland. This has gone hand in hand with the retreat of the heather

which is their natural habitat. A joint report on the heather moorland of Scotland, England and Wales shows an alarming decline in this wild, apparently untamed, landscape. The rolling purple hills are steadily losing the heather that gives them their character. Scientific surveys show that heather upland declined by 18 per cent in Scotland between the 1940s and 1970s; in England and Wales by 20 per cent; and that up to 70 per cent of what remains is "at risk".

The report, from scientists working for Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature and the Joint Conservation Committee, points to over-grazing, forestry, the spread of agricultural land and "bad practice" on the country's grouse moors as the cause. There is no doubt that the big increase in the number of deer is a major factor in the decline of the heather. There are now an estimated 300,000 deer in Scotland alone — numbers have virtually doubled in 30 years — and in some places the herds have grown in density as the spread of skiing

and forestry has limited the areas in which they were once free to move. Sheep have increased too, but the number of shepherds has dropped, so that flocks are no longer controlled in the way they once were. And the big grants available for tree-planting have meant that landowners faced with poor rents from increasingly defunct grouse moors have turned to forestry instead. That, of course, spells the final death warrant for any open stretch of heather.

But it is on the crucial issue of the management of Britain's grouse moors that the report's conclusions are least satisfactory. It pays lip-service to the importance of a well-maintained moor, but cannot quite bring itself to accept that the only people prepared to bear the



Red grouse: an alarming decline, along with the heather

cost are those whose interest it is to shoot large numbers of grouse; that grouse and birds of prey do not go well together; and that there will always be a conflict between the interests of the sporting landowner and the bird-lover. One scientist involved in the report complains that "there appear to be very few shooters prepared to welcome bio-diversity on the moor in the shape of a golden eagle or a peregrine falcon".

Well, of course they don't, especially when a falcon, which is a extremely efficient killer, can account for about 500 grouse in the course of a year.

The report highlights concerns over the decline of moorland bird-life in the past 40 years. Golden plover, merlin, greenshank, lapwing, snipe and, of course, red grouse are among the species which have begun to disappear, though others like the skylark, the curlew and the short-eared owl have remained stable. There must, therefore, have been a period when there was a richer "bio-diversity" on the hills than there is today.

Forty years ago a good bag on a well-managed moor could be as much as 400 grouse in a day. There were also higher numbers of golden

eagles, hen harriers and buzzards too, so logically the report should be urging a return to something like the regime that existed then, when the gamekeeper made his own rules and maintained the balance that he, rather than the conservationists, wanted.

Instead it skates round the issue: "On balance," it observes, "we consider that well-managed grouse moors... provide for a high bio-diversity and distinctive character in the landscape. The most satisfactory management for nature conservation should be achieved by enhancing species diversity in general rather than by judging results solely on the abundance of red grouse."

But there's the flaw. Only if there is an abundance of grouse will shooters be prepared to pay the huge sums needed to pay for the keepers to burn the heather, to control the predators, to manage the moor, and thus to preserve it in the state which the conservationists want.

The report concedes that it is a lack of cash on many estates and the fact there are fewer

gamekeepers to manage the land which accounts in part for the decline of the habitat. But it will not go so far as to examine where that cash might come from. That may not be its remit, but in failing to explore the issue it exposes a major gap in current conservationist policy.

NOT SO long ago I asked a naturalist whose name is synonymous with green issues what he thought was the ideal solution for preserving the balance of nature in hill country. "The traditional landowner, with a bit of money and an interest in grouse-shooting and deer-stalking, is still the best, possibly the only reliable conservationist in hill country — but don't for goodness sake quote me on that," he said.

Perhaps the time has come for the naturalists to be open about what they really think. At the rate things are going, the bonny purple heather and the noble grouse that once thrived among it may only be memories by the time they have admitted why they disappeared.

# DELTA AIR LINES ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE



Regular joggers can help to keep diverticular disease at bay Angina and surgery for the over-70s Mystery of the shifting shrapnel



REGULAR and steady exercise, taken in an uncompetitive way, helps to keep the cardiovascular system healthy. So far as longevity is concerned, everyday brisk walkers do almost as well as those who indulge in regular vigorous exercise, and very much better than those whose only exercise is the playing of a violent game once or twice a week.

But now recent research in America will give comfort to those runners whose set expression betrays the obsessive nature of their workout regime. Their coronary arteries may not be in any better order than those of the people who only take the dog out for half an hour's run daily — but their guts are.

The latest edition of the journal *Gut* reports on a survey of about 50,000 American men between 40 and 75 whose health had been monitored for four years.

The joggers and runners were only 40 per cent as likely to develop diverticular disease of the colon as the slothful. Those who

## Experiencing a gut reaction

took less strenuous exercise did not benefit so much: their reduction in diverticular disease was under 10 per cent. But even they could keep diverticular disease at bay if they supplemented regular, steady exercise with a high-fibre diet. It seems that walking the dog each morning will do nicely, provided that afterwards breakfast includes a large bowl of porridge.

Diverticula are pouches or sacs which are usually small and are formed when the mucosal lining of the gut pushes its way through a weak patch in the muscular wall of

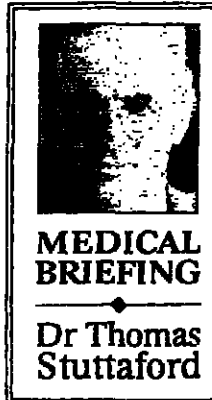
the colon. These weak patches usually occur at the point where a blood vessel enters the muscle wall. Diverticula become progressively more common with advancing years, so that by the age of 90 everybody has a few. In middle age they are more troublesome in men: in old age this situation is reversed.

The terms "diverticular disease", "diverticulitis" or "diverticulosis" are bandied about even in the most recent of company, few of whom know what a diverticulum was in classical times. Then a diverticulum meant a wayside brothel. And

today's diverticula, the cul-de-sacs of the highway of the gut, can cause every bit as much trouble as the roadside houses of ill-repute of history.

In diverticular disease, symptoms can occur even in the absence of demonstrable infection, diverticulitis. Occasionally, a non-inflamed diverticulum will erode an adjacent blood vessel and cause a haemorrhage. Many doctors suspect that they also give rise to diarrhoea or colicky pain. When a diverticulum becomes inflamed because bowel contents have been trapped in the pouch, there is pain, and local tenderness in the lower abdomen, together with other symptoms similar to those with appendicitis, but in this case more likely to be centred on the left rather than the right hand side of the abdomen.

Most attacks settle with appropriate antibiotic therapy, even though many patients will need admission to hospital. Should the gut perforate, emergency surgery provides the only hope of recovery. In some cases, it is necessary to remove a length of colon which has been badly affected by diverticular disease.



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

## Heart pains



THE FORECAST for the weekend is colder weather. A few cold days will often uncover the first signs of angina. A patient who has been able to climb a local hill without pain may suddenly notice a constricting central chest pain. This could possibly be accompanied by tightness in the neck or an ache down the left arm. Others may notice that similar pains are induced by climbing stairs, or even heavy emotion, particularly if they have also eaten a large meal recently. Whatever may have precipitated these classic signs of angina, the coronary artery circulation certainly needs investigation. Age is no bar to surgical treatment when angina is limiting activities.

A survey published in the journal of the Royal College of Physicians shows, unless ageing Devon patients are uniquely unlucky, that not all GPs have been following the Royal College's guidelines on angina.

The researchers polled 235 doctors in the Plymouth area; 9 out of 10 replied that they treated patients over 70 with symptoms of coronary heart disease themselves without further investigations. They didn't accept the idea that older patients would be likely to benefit from bypass surgery or angioplasty.

Despite Devonian pessimism, the statistics for surgical intervention for coronary heart disease in the over-70s are relatively good: the overall mortality is only 8 per cent, which would leave most of the rest still able to walk over Dartmoor after a bypass.

## Needle case



ON FEBRUARY 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison. There was delay at the last moment, the crowd grew restless and a few windows were broken. The police, understandably rather edgy, opened fire with buck shot and John Ellison, then

foreign editor of the *Daily Express*, who was covering the story, was hit in the neck behind the right ear.

The wound healed, but it was decided that no effort would be made to remove the shot. Six months later, Mr Ellison, by then back in Fleet Street, noticed a hard round lump over his left breast. The mass was caused by the shot which had migrated from behind the right mastoid process to the left chest wall from where it was easily removed.

Mr Ellison's experience was reminiscent of many similar instances in those wounded in the war, in which pieces of shrapnel are massaged by movements of muscles so that they migrate between the muscles' sheaths and later appear at a surface where they are least expected.

The inquiry at the Treliase Hospital, Cornwall, will have to decide whether the needle in the case of baby Benjamin Jones was just such a case and had been left behind after it had been used to take blood or spinal fluid, or whether it had become accidentally bound up in the child's clothing or wound dressings.

## Ethnic groups and a question of health

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh on a survey with some surprising findings

A fundamental principle of the NHS is equity — that is, the quality, accessibility and appropriateness of health care should be the same regardless of age, income, gender, religion or ethnic background. Health authorities are legally obliged to determine, and respond to, the particular needs of their ethnic populations.

Not only do ethnic populations experience different patterns of disease, but they also have different ideas about what has caused their illness and what might cure it. They may attach considerable significance to the opinion of a religious or cultural leader.

In practice, however, there is a fine distinction between acknowledging that ethnic minorities have different needs and allowing one's clinical judgement to be influenced by inaccurate cultural stereotypes — for example, that Afro-Caribbean teenagers are promiscuous.

Both the planners and the providers of health services will welcome the publication of the results of a survey by MORI into the health status and health-related behaviour of the predominant ethnic groups in England. More than a

hundred specially trained researchers interviewed over 4,500 Black African, Afro-Caribbean, Indian (including East African Asian), Pakistani and Bangladeshi people in their homes. They collected data on employment status, housing, levels of illness and disability, perceived causes of ill health, and perceived barriers to maintaining good health.

Some of the results were unsurprising. For example, they showed that Asian women rarely smoked and that Indians and Bangladeshis of both sexes consumed betel nut and chewed tobacco, an important cause of mouth and throat cancer. However, contrary to the belief of many doctors, Asian and African-Caribbean smokers were just as aware of the harmful effects of smoking, and as keen to quit, as the general population.

While doctors advised a similar proportion of smokers to give up in all ethnic groups, Asian patients were less likely to be prescribed nicotine substitutes. Another unsurprising finding was the low uptake of cervical smears in Bangladeshi and Pakistani women (28 per cent and 32 per cent respectively, compared with the UK average of 60 per cent). The reticence of these women, most of whom are Muslims, is usually attributed to religious prohibitions or modesty. However, this survey found that over half of them had either never been called up for a smear test or did not know what one was. Reasons of embarrassment or fear accounted for only around 5 per cent of non-attenders.

Levels of chronic illness and disability were high in all ethnic groups. For example, in men aged between 50 and 75, 33 per cent of Indians, 37 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans and 64 per cent of Bangladeshis described their health status as poor, compared with a UK average of 15 per cent. High rates of diabetes, heart disease, rheumatism and stomach problems accounted for much of the excess disability in Asians, whereas African-Caribbeans identified diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and sickle-cell anaemia. Admission of depression, or trouble with "nerves", was less common in these groups (67 per cent) than in the general UK population (14 per cent), despite a similar proportion feeling under stress. This supports the belief of many doctors that psychological problems may be somatised — that is, experienced as physical symptoms — by certain ethnic groups.

Eighty-four per cent of Bangladeshi respondents said they lived in cold, damp or cramped housing conditions, and more than a quarter felt that this had upset their health. Other factors perceived as adversely affecting health by all the groups surveyed were unemployment, violent crime, racism, and stress or worries at home or at work.

Surprisingly few respondents reported communication difficulties with their doctor, perhaps because over 80 per cent of Asian patients were registered with a GP from a similar ethnic background. However, many felt that access to their GP was difficult because the surgery was too far away. Only a fifth of Asian women had access to a female GP, but about 40 per cent of the remainder would prefer to see a woman.

● The Health and Lifestyle of Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in England is published by the Health Education Authority, £15.



Asian women rarely smoke



Computed tomography (CT) scan of a woman with ovarian and uterine cancer (the black areas). If ovarian cancer is treated before it spreads the five-year survival rate is over 95 per cent

The fourth most common cancer in British women — after breast, colon and lung — is ovarian cancer, which in 1989 affected 5,100 women in England and Wales and killed 3,844. This number of deaths is higher than the total for all other gynaecological cancers (including cervix) put together. How can it be reduced?

Ovarian cancer mainly affects older women, the peak incidence being around the age of 70. Its frequency has increased since the Second World War and in fact the death rate has more than doubled over the last 60 years. This may be because the average age at the first menstrual period has fallen and because women now have fewer pregnancies. Both these trends have increased the number of ovulations experienced by the average woman, and ovulation is almost certainly a risk factor of the disease.

It is a particularly dangerous cancer. Forty per cent of patients die within a year of diagnosis and less than 30 per cent are alive after five years. The main reason is that it usually remains undetected until a late stage. Ovarian cancer rarely causes pain and the woman may notice nothing wrong until advanced disease causes swelling of her abdomen. Early diagnosis greatly improves the outlook. If the disease is treated while still confined to the ovaries, the five-year survival rate is over 95 per cent.

Early detection is difficult because the ovaries are hidden

## Can ovarian cancer be prevented?

in the pelvis. They can, however, be seen on ultrasound scanning with machines similar to those used during pregnancy.

The first sign of cancer is ovarian enlargement. Unfortunately the size of the ovary is affected by many factors such as a woman's age and weight. Before the menopause the ovaries enlarge at certain stages of the menstrual cycle. Furthermore, ovarian enlargement is often due to benign cysts. Ovarian screening by ultrasound scanning may therefore give false-positive results, which not only cause needless worry but also lead to unnecessary surgery. For example, in one study of women aged over 40, 1,000 women were screened and 31 had an abnormal scan. Twenty-four underwent an operation to allow closer examination of the ovaries. Only one had cancer.

Researchers are therefore trying to improve the accuracy of ultrasound screening. Increased blood flow to a tumour can be detected by specialised "Doppler" ultrasound. This technique has been applied at King's College Hospital, London, to women with a family history of ovarian cancer.

Many cancers can be easily detected or anticipated. But the ovaries present special problems, says James Drife

Of 1,601 women screened, 61 had a positive scan and underwent surgery, and six cancers were diagnosed. Women who know they are at high risk may be willing to accept this high false-positive rate.

Other research has combined ultrasound scans with blood tests. Ovarian cancer often produces unusual proteins and these can be detected in the blood. These so-called "tumour markers", however, are not unique to ovarian cancer. For example, CA125, the best known of them, is elevated in 70 per cent of women with ovarian cancer but also in 10 per cent of normal women. Blood levels of CA125 are raised by menstruation, so this test is most useful after the menopause.

At the Royal London Hospital 22,000 postmenopausal

women were screened using CA125 measurement followed by ultrasound. Of the 41 who had a positive result and underwent surgery, 11 had ovarian cancer. Of the 21,959 women who had a negative result, eight subsequently developed ovarian cancer.

Various other tumour markers are being investigated in the hope of developing a more accurate screening test by measuring several markers in the same blood sample. Ultrasound scanning can then be reserved for women who had a positive blood test. Later this month a large research project will be launched in Britain, involving 120,000 women. Half will receive no screening and half will have a blood test measuring two tumour markers, one of them CA125.

Although ovarian screening is still not precise enough to be introduced nationwide, it is suitable for women with a family history of the disease. Up to 5 per cent of ovarian cancers are hereditary and in some families the risk is increased between two and ten times above normal.

Ovarian cancer screening aims to detect the disease as soon as possible after it begins. This is different from cervical screening, which can detect precancerous changes and prevent cervical cancer ever developing. Ovarian cancer, unfortunately, does not go through a detectable precancerous phase.

Are there any ways to prevent ovarian cancer altogether? Unlike lung cancer, it does not have an avoidable cause. It can be prevented by removing the ovaries while they are still healthy, and some women from high-risk families choose this option once their childbearing is complete. After the operation they take hormone replacement therapy.

A woman without a family history of the disease has a 1 per cent risk of developing ovarian cancer. Could this be reduced? At present in Britain about 20 per cent of women

undergo hysterectomy, mostly between the ages of 40 and 55. Hysterectomy may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer even if the ovaries are left behind, but the risk can be completely abolished by removing the ovaries. A survey of British gynaecologists showed that 85 per cent would suggest removal of the ovaries to a woman undergoing hysterectomy after the menopause but only 20 per cent would remove normal ovaries if the woman was aged 45-49.

It has been calculated that current gynaecological practice already reduces the occurrence of ovarian cancer by as much as 12 per cent and that a further 10-14 per cent of cancers could be prevented if more ovaries were removed at the time of hysterectomy. However, with a 1.7 per cent overall risk, 60-100 pairs of normal ovaries would have to be removed to prevent each cancer.

The oral contraceptive pill, which prevents ovulation, is known to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer by about 40 per cent. Two years of the Pill produces a protective effect lasting up to 15 years. In Britain the Pill has been used mainly by young women but modern low-dose Pills can safely be used by women in their forties, provided they are non-smokers with no risk factors for heart disease. A health education programme encouraging women over 40 to use the Pill might save hundreds of lives.

● James Drife is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Leeds.

we're linking up with Virgin



## Janet Daley



Politicians want deference; broadcasters want blood-letting; but what does the public want?

We were all milling around in the mellow demob atmosphere that follows a current affairs discussion programme. In the midst of the bibulous good fellowship, a very important member of the Opposition front bench suddenly said, apropos of nothing at all: "That's the trouble with Paxman. He never listens." It was this trait of "never listening" that made Jeremy Paxman unacceptable as a television interlocutor, said the very important Opposition spokesman. The man to whom his remarks were directed was an executive from BBC News and Current Affairs. I looked expectantly at the executive, waiting for him to offer any of the loyal protestations he might have put forward on behalf of one of the corporation's most outstanding performers. He could have chided the politician gently with a reminder that it was, after all, part of the business of an alert interviewer to discomfit public figures.

Or he could have articulated my own thoughts and snapped, "Surely your objection is that Paxman listens too carefully — how else could he dismember your arguments so skillfully?" But to my amazement, the BBC executive said none of these things. Instead, he nodded in grinning agreement, adding a few enthusiastic elaborations of his own to this portrait of Jeremy Paxman as *The Man Who Never Listens*. I came away from that little post-programme gathering furious with myself for not having spoken up for a colleague I felt to have been traduced.

But then I thought — as one does — that it probably meant very little: simply a bit of tactful sucking-up to a politician who could soon be in power. Then John Birt gave his lecture in Dublin and suddenly what that suit from upstairs had said became part of a larger picture. A good deal has already been written on the subject of Mr Birt's comments, much of it by journalists pointing out that deference to established power is not now, and never has been, the function of a free press. What has been noted rather less is that the Director-General was speaking, in two separate senses, as if he were an outsider to the BBC.

In themselves, his remarks could simply be a bit of clever posturing — an attempt to neutralise criticism of the BBC by incorporating it. Speaking for Everyman would be consistent with a fashion that has taken hold in current affairs programming. There is a belief that to counteract the power of the Westminster club of pundits and MPs — to be truly democratic — programmes must include as much uninformed banality from the general public

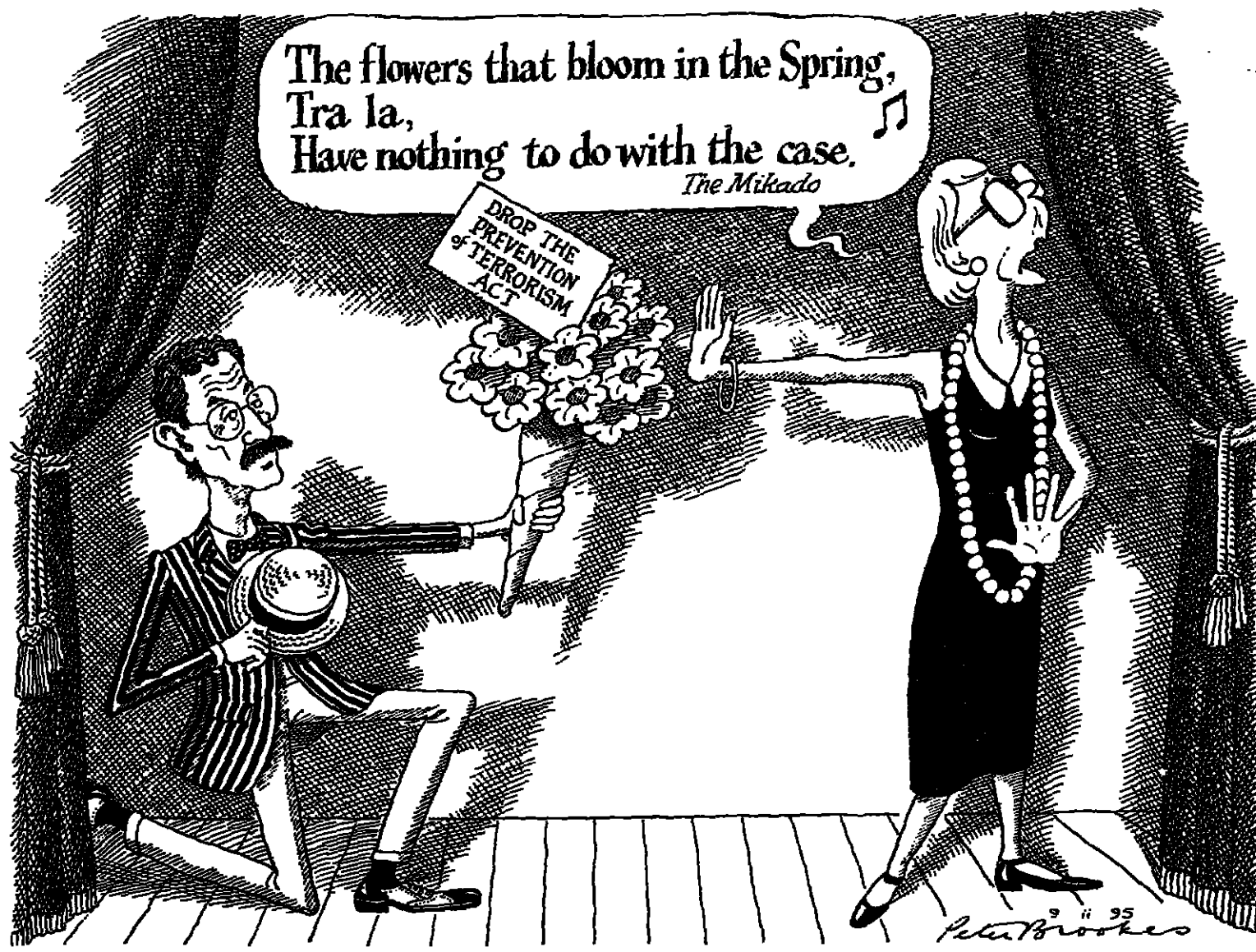
as possible. The antidote to smart-alec interviewers spinning out the circumlocutions of those in power is to drag a bus queue into the studio to add its own ill-assorted judgments to the stew. This revolt against professionalism and coherence is thought to increase something called "empowerment", when what it usually adds to the proceedings is embarrassment.

But there is another sense in which Mr Birt's condemnation of confrontational broadcasting is quite baffling. Does he really have no idea how much pressure to be aggressive is put on broadcasters from within the corporation itself? Is he not aware that one is warned constantly — I speak from the heart here — about lapsing into "dull, rational debate": that the more anger generated in the audience by outrageous behaviour on air, the more successful a programme is considered to be? Audiences may very well long for more thoughtful analysis of serious issues — although this does not consist of "listening" credulously while politicians evade questions. But

when listeners and viewers write in to request it, they are dismissed as either naïve or unrepresentative. Real audiences, it is insisted, want excitement and blood-letting, not earnest debate. This is so much the conventional wisdom of his own organisation that I am amazed Mr Birt has not come across it.

And then there is the "feeding frenzy" of speculation which many politicians (and Mr Birt) decry. Ministers jump behind one another to get on to the *Today* programme in order to deliver glib soundbites, which they hope will dominate the rest of the day's news coverage. When their opaque statements are dissected by commentators, magnified by the Opposition (or dissident backbenchers), and generally interpreted to death, they cry foul. But their remarks would not have such disproportionate consequences if they were clear and forthright in the first place.

We are all familiar now with the phenomenon of speculation building on speculation throughout the long day of news broadcasting until it spins out of control into a trumped-up crisis. But this is caused not so much by peculiarly irresponsible journalism as by a generation of unusually dissembling, equivocating political leaders. When government and opposition refuse to state their policies unambiguously, they leave a vacuum to be filled by rumour and self-generating controversy as commentators attempt to read some meaning into their every hint and guarded remark.



## All the Speaker's men

Gingrich has inspired a generation of Republicans, and shifted US politics

Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is an intriguing American political figure, half populist and half intellectual, the creator of a great electoral victory who is nonetheless disliked by many of the Americans one meets. He has changed the history of American politics, but his own political future is by no means certain. He has great power in this Congress: that will last for the next two years, but after that no one can tell. He looks more like a Prophet than like a King.

Quotations from *Speaker Newt* has recently been published. It includes his "Contract with America". This book demonstrates his remarkable gift as a propagandist for the ideas of the new Republican Party. He would have made a wonderful speechwriter for Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s; he certainly makes a wonderful speechwriter for himself in the 1990s.

His one-liners make conservative points with great economy. "The welfare state kills more people in a year than private business." "If you want to live seven times as well as somebody in Canton, you're going to have to be seven times as productive." "To decide you're irritated with Bush on taxes and decide to marry Clinton is like having dated a social drinker and ended up by marrying a bartender." "The Conservative issue is life for your grandchildren."

These are not particularly original in philosophical terms, but Newt Gingrich puts in single sentences what other Republican politicians put in paragraphs or pages.

When he first reached the House of Representatives, he won a reputation, rather like Norman Tebbit, for the savagery of his attacks. Looking back in 1990, he commented that he had been a backbencher "who knew that in order to be effective, you had to use certain techniques". When he became the Republican Whip in the House of Representatives in 1989, he developed friendlier propaganda techniques to create a Republican majority in the House. "I'll do almost anything to win a Republican majority in the Congress," he said in 1991, and within three years he had achieved his aim.

The method he used, particularly in drafting the Republican election platform, the "Contract with America", was to put complex proposals in direct and popular terms. The head-

ings of the contract tell the story. "The Fiscal Responsibility Act." "The Taking Back Our Streets Act." "The Personal Responsibility Act." "The Family Reinforcement Act." "The American Dream Restoration Act." "The National Security Restoration Act." "The Senior Citizen Fairness Act." "The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act." "The Common Sense Legal Reform Act." "The Citizen Legislature Act." One expects to see "The Motherhood and Apple Pie Act", and wonders why that was omitted.

The slogans are homely but the policies are sophisticated. "The Common Sense Legal Reform Act" is being put through the House of Representatives by Christopher Cox, who represents Orange County in California. Horrifying abuses have been committed by litigant and profit-sharing lawyers. There are whole firms of American lawyers who are little better than professionals at the shake-down. Because litigation for damages is such highly profitable business, most trial lawyers are against reform: because the proposal is a Republican one, many Liberals are against it too. The actual proposals would bring American legal procedure closer to the British: unsuccessful litigants would have to pay costs. The Republicans are dealing with a real abuse, but Newt Gingrich had the propaganda skill to create the "apple pie" label.

He has a radical programme. "I will not rest," he said in 1991, "until I have transformed the landscape of American politics." In December 1994, after the Republican victory, he said "No society can survive, no civilisation can survive, with 12-year-olds having babies, with 15-year-olds killing each other, with 17-year-olds dying of AIDS, with 18-year-olds getting diplomas they cannot read."

Sometimes he sounds apocalyptic. "People like me are what stands between us and Auschwitz. I see evil all around me every day... We are at the edge of losing this civilisation. You get two more generations of

what we had for the last 20 years and we're in desperate trouble... as long as I believe that's true, I'll keep trying to recruit another generation and train another generation so that when I'm too tired to keep doing this, they'll be ready to step in."

This sounds somewhat hysterical. Of course, there is much evil in modern America, but it does not become any man to claim that he stands between America and Auschwitz. Yet this is how radical politicians do sometimes feel. It is the last part of that Newt Gingrich statement that may prove the most important.

He made it early in 1994, before he had won the election, before he had become Speaker of the House: "I'll keep trying to recruit another generation and train another generation." He is doing just that.

Last Monday I had a long conversation with one of "Newt's children", the 73 Republican freshman in the new House of Representatives. He is Mark Stanford, who won his district in South Carolina with a majority of 55,000. He talks about Newt Gingrich in the same way that most inspiring professors, with real admiration for his gifts as a teacher. Until 1978, Gingrich was on the faculty at West Georgia College, and the role suits him well.

I thought Mark Stanford very impressive. His background is in finance and economics. He has come into politics with a commitment to his constituents that he will serve a maximum of three terms (six years) in the House. He does not want to become another professional politician of the kind he believes to have failed America. He is an idealist who believes that only radical financial and economic reforms will allow the United States to remain an effective economic power in the next century. He believes in the "Contract with America", not because he is some sort of extremist, but for considered reasons which would appealed intellectually to Keith Jo-

William Rees-Mogg

## Europe's new empire

Ronald Butt says 'federalism' cloaks threats to freedom

The term "federalism" is distorting the debate about the future of Europe. It is used as political camouflage by those who want a strong central government for Europe, and who cite Germany or America as evidence that federations allow workable devolution. But in the United States and Germany fundamental policy is controlled by central governments which are both strong and democratically accountable. The entrenched secondary powers of the elected governments of the states and of the *Länder* are justified by their histories, political cultures and (in the American case) size. But the Germans and Americans are also true nations, sharing common languages and cultures, and voting as such for their federal governments.

America's executive President and Germany's Chancellor, though chosen by very different methods, derive their authority from and are accountable to their peoples. The Chancellor can be elected by the Bundestag; the President can be put in check by a hostile Congress in mid-term and turned out of office at the next presidential election.

Were some such system feasible for a European Union, I should find it hard to oppose. I feel European — never more strongly than when driving freely over frontiers I first crossed in wartime. I want a sensible and democratic community of nations. But a central government for Europe cannot be made democratically accountable as national federal governments are. A democratic Union would be possible only if all its peoples could join in electing a prime ministerial or presidential chief executive and government, and then all accept the outcome as in national elections. And that is conceivable only in a nation with a shared language, common political culture and history, a sense of nationhood and a cohesive state. The EU fulfils none of these conditions.

In national democracies, the daily dialectic between government and opposition focuses argument and influences public opinion. Having a common language and political culture, the public can listen to the arguments and have informed opinions on policies and politicians. It is difficult to suppose that this sort of public opinion could exist across a Union of some 20 states of many tongues and traditions and at different stages of economic development, stretching from Ireland to Eastern Europe, some with little experience of or inclination towards parliamentary democracy.

The virtual impossibility of finding an acceptable means of electing a federal chief executive and cabinet for so large and diverse a Union by universal suffrage seems to be implicitly recognised in the nearest thing we have to a federal "blueprint" for Europe, which does not even consider it. The paper recently presented to the Bundestag by the CDU/CSU group proposes that the European Commission should "take on features of a European government". It wants the European Parliament to take on the role of a legislature, with the law-making powers that the Council of (national) Ministers now enjoys. That council would be reduced to the position of a second chamber.

The "government of Europe" would thus be a nominated body, over which the European Parliament, even with enhanced powers, could not conceivably provide a sufficient democratic check. Nor could it defend national interests. If, for instance, a majority within a member state were in dispute, over a matter of fundamental importance to it, with the majority of states in the European Union, how could the people of the outnumbered state make their need felt?

The situation would be very different from that within democratic nation-states, where elections on the same question are fought in every constituency and the outcome is accepted by all. In the European Parliament, no Union-wide political party could effectively represent the interest of a particular nation at odds with the rest.

What is really on offer, under the guise of federalism, is a system under which the voter-sensitive politics of parliamentary democracy would atrophy and our liberties would be in danger. The prospect is one of entrenched and unaccountable bureaucratic imperialism. Its root-system is already established in Brussels, where the unelected politico-bureaucrats of the Commission initiate European law without the public ventilation of detail that goes on within parliamentary democracies. Nor are there accessible political mechanisms for the repeal of any Community legislation that proves unacceptable. If the poll tax had been enacted under EU legislation, it would still be law.

Present indications are that the future EU is more likely to resemble the Hapsburg or Ottoman empires than a democratic federal state. The question is not whether we should have federalism, but whether, lured by a federalist mirage, we surrender to the next European empire. We must not. It is not only our own ancient parliamentary liberties that are at risk, but the democratic institutions of every member state.

## Peer's arrest

THE PRIME MINISTER'S parliamentary private secretary in the Lords has been taking the law into his own hands with some success. In a thrilling display of derring-do the other week, Lord McColl collared a car thief after a determined chase.

McColl is a professor of surgery at Guy's Hospital, and one of the architects of the Government's health reforms. He is a fit 62. I am reliably informed that he had just returned from a jog near his Dulwich home when he heard a tremendous crash outside and went to investigate.

"There in front of him was his neighbour's car, which had come through the fence," explains one of his colleagues. "Lord McColl rushed down to help the injured man, thinking he had a patient on his hands, only to find it wasn't his neighbour. A stranger burst from the car and fled down the road with Lord McColl in pursuit."

The thief didn't get far. Our hero lowered his head and charged. As his quarry launched himself at a wall and scrambled desperately to haul himself over, the good lord grabbed hold of his dangling legs and yanked. The

hoodlum crumpled to the ground. McColl sat on him and placed him under citizen's arrest. His spirit broken, the culprit abandoned any thought of struggling and awaited the arrival of the boys in blue, who led him away.

McColl appeared too modest to discuss his brave deed yesterday. "But he's a terribly nice chap," says a friend. "He's super-fit and very quick on his feet, a kind of Roger Bannister type. I think he was quite pleased with himself."

SHE'S ASKED FOR THESE TO BE DESTROYED TOO



● In Court 11 at the Old Bailey today, a Mr Gordon Jeeves is due to stand trial. Next door in Court 12, sentence will be passed on a Mr Terry Wooster.

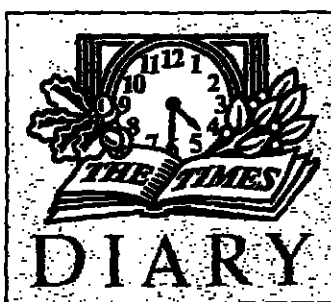
## Best boot

THERE ARE some who judge Tony Blair a fair-weather fan of Newcastle United Football Club. However, none could doubt the commitment of his press secretary, Alastair Campbell, to the game in general or to his beloved Burnley in particular.

He was top scorer in a celebrity soccer trivia quiz organised by next month's *Q&A* magazine. While Martin Amis and the pulchritudinous managing director of Birmingham City, Karen Brady, answered only seven out of 28 questions correctly, Campbell hit the mark 18 times.

The magazine says he was "fiercely competitive... but showed signs of a suspect temperament. Questioned the ref's decision and used the F-word when struggling to recall answers. On the afternoon of Prime Minister's Question Time, [he] paged us twice to arrange to take part."

● Lord Tebbit took the chair at the Foyles lunch yesterday to celebrate the publication of former head-



master and education minister Sir Rhodes Boyson's autobiography, *Speaking My Mind*. "I am sure if he had ever seen my homework for marking, my friend Rhodes would have given me a B-minus," he said.

## Axed

A SURPRISE announcement on Tuesday's *News at Ten* came from Trevor McDonald: Alan Clark had resigned from the Government. He said, even though the former minister actually left in 1992.

As soon as he had said "Clark", McDonald realised his mistake. He had meant Allan Stewart, the pickaxe-brandishing Scottish minister who resigned after an incident with motorway protesters.

But yesterday, Alan Clark, who did not see the bulletin, admitted it could have been him: "Looking at

that rabble of protesters I would have used the pickaxe. I would have laid into them."

## Amery's end

THE RELEASE of wartime documents on Tuesday shed further light on the life of John Amery, who was hanged for treason after pleading guilty in December 1945. What was not revealed, however, was that he narrowly escaped death just after his capture in Italy earlier that year. John Cowe, a major with the Royal Artillery in Italy at the time, was recalled to England in July and tells of his encounter with the traitor.

"I was most surprised to see a civilian in the front seat of the plane handcuffed to his neighbour," he remembers. "Our plane came down and crashed in France, in Hyères, near Marseilles. When we scrambled out I realised it was Amery. He was lucky his number didn't come up then."

## Branching out

JOHN MAJOR's son James is fleeing the nest. He is to leave the family home in Great Stukeley, near Huntingdon for the first time because of a change of job.

The 19-year-old Marks & Spen-



Major Minor: moving on

cer management trainee has worked at the firm's Cambridge store for 13 months, but is now to take a £12,000-a-year post in the Norwich branch, 65 miles away.

"After general training in Cambridge, he will be concentrating on one particular aspect of management in Norwich," says a spokeswoman. "We do not mind where our trainees live as long as they present themselves for work. Their private lives are their own business."

P.H.S





## PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Time to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act

The Republic of Ireland's decision to lift its state of emergency provisions is an important symbolic moment in the peace process. By voting to do so, the Dail has sent a signal to the men of violence in the North that it expects the paramilitary ceasefires to hold. The British Government should respond with caution and an open mind.

Dublin's gesture is less radical, and more shrewd, than might be thought. Eamon de Valera's Offences Against the State Act of 1939 remains in place; the Irish authorities still have the power to intern without trial, confiscate property, ban organisations, publications and meetings, and set up non-jury courts. The South, in other words, has indicated its faith in the ceasefires without surrendering its core powers to defend the peace should the truce break down.

The risk that this might happen at any time was made clear by the discovery in Newry on Tuesday of a Semtex bomb. John Major's apparent reluctance to repeal or relax the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) is wholly understandable. Last March, its provisions were renewed by the Commons against the background of the IRA's mortar attack on Heathrow and an extraordinary attempt by Labour to wreck the bipartisan consensus on the need for such measures. To repeal the law before the paramilitaries hand over their weapons would be an act of great irresponsibility. There is nonetheless a strong case for its careful amendment.

In its current form, the act enables the Northern Ireland Secretary to proscribe organisations connected with terrorism and to issue exclusion orders removing a suspect from Northern Ireland or the mainland. Police may arrest suspects without warrant and detain them without charge for 48 hours or seven days with the Secretary of State's

permission. It is illegal to raise money for proscribed groups or to conceal information related to terrorist offences from the police.

These arrangements are essentially sound. But there is scope for a gradual relaxation as the peace process continues. First, the right of the police to detain should be modified. The provision that enables officers to hold suspects for two days without charge should be retained. But there is no longer a need for the Secretary of State's additional power to detain a suspected terrorist for a further five days. For the Government to yield this authority would be a helpful step which would not restrict unduly the powers of the security forces.

Secondly, exclusion orders should be made subject to some form of judicial scrutiny. Such decisions by the executive could be made liable to judicial review; alternatively, the approval of a magistrate could become a condition of any exclusion order. As long as the ceasefires hold, the distinction would make little practical difference. But as a sign of the British Government's good will it would be well received in the Province.

In the wake of last week's disclosures about the joint framework document, Unionists and their supporters on the Conservative back benches must not appear entirely resistant to sensible and justified change. Terrorism distorts civil society, forcing it to take radical measures to restrict freedom. To restore conditions of normality step by step need not be a process of appeasement. It ought, in practice, to be a liberating experience for a society that has suffered. A year ago, there was a case for stronger security measures. Today, the circumstances of the Province have changed considerably. The Government should not be afraid to amend the law accordingly.

## NATO'S CLAES WAR

A new Secretary-General in search of a new bogey

Willy Claes — who secured his job only because his fellow Belgian Jean-Luc Dehaene failed in his bid for the presidency of the European Commission — has just revealed an intention to forge new links between Nato and North Africa. The conviction that he is the wrong man for the post of Secretary-General of Nato, widely expressed at the time of his selection barely five months ago, will now be strengthened.

These links would make North Africa a central focus for Nato's strategic arrangements. Their proposal stems from Mr Claes's belief that "Muslim fundamentalism is now as big a threat to the alliance as communism once was". He has taken his cue from, among others, Samuel Huntington, the political scientist from Harvard who wrote in 1993 in *Foreign Affairs* of "the clash of civilisations".

There can be no doubt that North Africa is a powerful source of worry. The remorseless civil war in Algeria, in particular, has provoked in neighbouring European countries both fierce political debates as well as fears of large-scale immigration. France and Spain, charged respectively with the presidency of the European Union in 1995, are rightly seeking to make North Africa an issue of continent-wide concern. Why should all eyes be focused on Poland, they argue, and not on Algeria? And why is the economic integration with the EU of, say, the Czech Republic, of greater strategic import than a more equitable trade accommodation with Morocco?

The answer here is not to deny that North Africa poses problems for Europe. But the contemporary challenge of "fundamentalism" is less about direct threats to other

countries than it is about the implications for the West of social unrest within North African societies. These are appropriate — even necessary — questions for the EU to address: they are, quite categorically, not appropriate questions for Nato.

In losing an identifiable adversary after the Cold War, Nato's role has been called in question by elected politicians, and strategic planners alike. Yet there is no doubt that Nato is the only institution in the post-Cold War world with the political and military capacity to meet new challenges effectively. The traditional strengths of the alliance will be further endangered if its secretariat seems to be selecting new challenges without due care. North Africa makes complex demands with which Nato is not equipped to deal: the "threat" from the region is caused, in major part, by the regimes of the region themselves. The Islamic movements in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, however violent, are powerful and populist movements: "political Islam" has become the dominant idiom in which resistance to corrupt and unelected governments is expressed.

It is precisely because the problems of North Africa are so grave that the response of the West needs to be more refined than that envisaged by Mr Claes. A better way to deal with the "threat" from the Maghreb than ranging military force against it — or deploying force in support of the region's regimes — would be for the EU to ensure that the economies of the region are integrated with those of its richer neighbours to the north. Even this will yield scarce fruit if the regimes of North Africa continue to be unrepresentative of their people and unaccountable to them.

## CLASSROOM VALUES

Local pay bargaining could end the deadlock over schools

It has long been a promise of Conservative Education Secretaries to devolve power over schools from hated left-wing local politicians and bureaucrats to public-spirited volunteer governors and teachers. There is less confidence in that claim today. Now that schools are faced with real cuts in their budgets of up to 6 per cent this year, many active citizens in charge of the schools (often natural Tories) are threatening to resign or to set illegal budgets. The militant members of teaching unions and the town hall followers of Derek Hutton are able to sit back and watch.

These dissident Tories have much on their side. Although some schools have built up reserves for rainy days (and they do not come much rainier than this), others, which have done what they teachers and equip their money on good teaching. There is little obvious fat to cut: teachers' salaries account for between 80 and 90 per cent of a school's budget and the remainder of the costs, such as electricity, caretaking or books, are relatively fixed too.

Comparisons with the private sector are tricky. Most teachers work extremely hard and have increased their productivity since testing and the national curriculum were introduced. Buildings are hardly lavish; inspectors are always complaining about leaky roofs and shoddy premises. Moreover, schools which have managed to retain loyal and experienced staff have to spend more on salaries which, unlike in a private company, cannot be recouped in higher profits, only in the intangible benefit of better teaching. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has been overruled by the Treasury.

She gave warning that the effect of a punitive settlement would be teacher redundancies and higher class sizes. Now she is trying to put a brave face on the result, calling for reserves to be run down and surplus school places to be cut. She is right about the former, though that does not help schools without reserves. The extra school places, however, are not such an obvious target. They are spread thinly among many schools. Moreover, they will be needed, both to allow increased parental choice and to soak up the rising school population that is now working its way through primary school.

This settlement has been sprung on the education system. There is room for further rationalisation, both in local authority bureaucracy and in the distribution of schools. But none of this can be done by April. The system of funding schools is far too rigid. The Government cannot expect to set a national pay rise for teachers, then to give schools too little money to pay for it, and finally to forbid local authorities from raising more money to make up the shortfall.

One way out of the dilemma would be to relax the council tax caps which prevent local authorities from seeking extra funds. In the long term, however, the Government must move towards local pay bargaining. This would enable schools to compete in the job market for the best teachers within the budgetary constraints set by central government and town halls. It would be a far better form of devolution and one which would give governors true flexibility to hire and fire. If they wish to avoid a ritual row over pay every year, ministers must embrace such a system without delay.

## City's views on single currency

From Mr Rodney Leach and others

Sir, It will not do to dismiss doubts about European monetary union (reports, February 4, 6; leading article, February 6) by claiming wide support from the business and financial community.

Not only has world trade flourished remarkably since 1945 between countries with variable (and since the 1970s mostly floating) currencies. But even if the natural core of European federalist countries were tied into the ecu, by far the larger part of Britain's trade and investment would continue to be conducted outside those countries in a wide variety of national currencies.

Plainly, a single currency is not indispensable to expanding exports, whether visible or invisible, both in the wider world and within the European single market which we all support. Leaving aside legitimate political contention about national sovereignty, a realistic economic judgment must turn on far more searching questions than those raised by the proponents of monetary union.

For example, before any country abandons its national money, it should ask firstly: in the absence of adjustments in exchange rates and domestic interest rates, how are contrasting national economies to adjust to differential changes in growth, efficiency, and other unforeseeable disturbances? And secondly, how far is a currency accountable to assorted national parliaments likely to stand inflation as resolutely as, say, the Bundesbank — or Britain since leaving the ERM?

Might political supporters of a single currency henceforth cease taking the name of business and the City in vain and start confronting and debating the real issues?

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY LEACH,  
ANTHONY COWGILL,  
MICHAEL EDWARDES,  
OWEN GREEN,  
HANSON,  
HARRIS OF HIGH CROSS,  
DANIEL HODSON,  
STANLEY KALMS,  
EMMANUEL KAYE,  
BRIAN KEELAN,  
BRIAN KINGHAM,  
JOHN MANSEY,  
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS,  
CLAUDIA MILES-WATTS,  
GARRY WESTON,  
BRIAN WILLIAMSON,  
STANISLAS YASSUKOVICH,  
3 Lombard Street, EC3,  
February 8.

## Education cuts

From Mr Paul Cann and others

Sir, Unless central and local government can between them find additional money for education (reports, February 8 etc), one large group for which so much has been promised recently will be hurt: the one-and-a-half million schoolchildren with special educational needs.

When the Government consulted in 1993 on a new code of practice to improve the deal for such children, the special needs organisations were encouraged by the open, receptive style of ministers and officials. The outcome of this dialogue was a welcome blueprint which offers a real opportunity to identify and support children with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities.

It was always going to be hard to make the code happen without extra resources. If school budgets are now forced into reverse a wonderful opportunity to enhance the lives of our most disadvantaged children will be squandered.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL CANN  
(British Dyslexia Association),  
NORMA CORKISH  
(AFASIC, Overcoming Speech Impairment),  
SUSAN DANIELS  
(National Deaf Children's Society),  
PAUL ENNIS  
(Royal National Institute for the Blind),  
FRED HEDDELL  
(MENCAP),  
BRIAN LAMB  
(SCOPE, formerly The Spastics Society),  
98 London Road, Reading, Berkshire,  
February 8.

## Role of Church music

From Mr I. H. Stout

Sir, Despite being a practising Anglican, I fear that I have very little idea of what a parish evangelist is, or indeed does (Mr Paul Hamilton's letter, January 20); but it would appear that the duties require little understanding or recognition of the matchless heritage of English church music, and its role throughout the ages of bringing people to faith.

While I am glad that newcomers to Mr Hamilton's church find worship enjoyable, many contemplative people are content rather to meditate on the mystic, sacramental and redemptive power of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as revealed in music. It is this which the greatest English composers, such as Tallis and Byrd, understood.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN STOUT,  
16 East Common, Redbourn,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## The Oxford entrance exam. Discuss.

From Dr G. D. W. Smith

Sir, Your leader on the Oxford entrance examination ("Selective argument", February 4) shows the polished turn of phrase and occasional flash of brilliance which might be well received in the examination itself. However, it would probably not fare quite so well as a tutorial essay, as it is long on assertion and somewhat short on analysis.

The facts are these. More than 85 per cent of all pupils in this country attend state schools. Yet Oxford admits more students from independent schools than from the state sector. Thus either there is an immense disparity in talent between state and independent sectors, or the current Oxford entrance procedures are failing to deliver the goods.

Feedback from schools is overwhelmingly clear. State school teachers tell us that they do not have the time or the resources to prepare a small minority of their pupils for a special entrance examination which is being set by only one university. The very existence of this examination is a deterrent to many potential applicants from the state sector. That is the reason for the current debate.

Lord Bullock once said that one of the great strengths of Oxford was its immense capacity for self-renewal. As part of its preparation for the next century, the university has to re-examine many of the ways in which it conducts itself. The entrance examination is just one of the issues which need to be addressed. We must find ways of attracting the most able, and not just the most privileged, of young people to our institution.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE SMITH,  
Trinity College, Oxford,  
February 5.

From Mr I. L. Riley

Sir, Your editorial comment about the Oxford entrance exam is very accurate. As the head of mathematics in

a comprehensive school of medium size in an area traditionally associated with industries either extinct or in decline, I have found that our Oxford candidates respond well to the system of entry by exam as they can approach the subsequent interview heralded by the hard, if possibly rather patchy, evidence of their potential brilliance. This primary evidence would not be available from A and S-level scripts.

The exam already completed leaves them feeling that they can compete against others with possibly more self-confidence and sophisticated social and presentational skills derived from family and educational tradition (as many of our pupils see it). There is a sense of equality and fairness even in the face of rejection. It is the availability of this Oxford system which encourages students to apply there rather than to other universities.

Additionally, the entrance exam encourages earlier academic development and the discovery by students of their own abilities, even amongst those not offered places. It concentrates the mind wonderfully but is, in my experience, ultimately less stressful to students than a waiting time of eight months to find out whether their A-level results are AAA (happiness) or AAB (misery).

Yours sincerely,  
IAN RILEY,  
The Shambles, Sla Common Lane,  
Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire,  
February 6.

From Mr Adrian Williams

Sir, In the pre-1963 era, as I recall, one Oxford college challenged the candidate's imaginative brain with the superbly crafted question: "Is this a question?"

The response (not mine, alas) that won the examiners' approbation was, "If it is, this is the answer."

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN WILLIAMS,  
28 Trinity Street, St Ebbes, Oxford,  
February 6.

## Forth Bridge future

From the Director of Railtrack Scotland

Sir, Magnus Linklater's article on the Forth Bridge ("Are we letting Britain's greatest bridge rot?", February 3) was characteristically erudite and lyrical. However he seemed to suggest that its future was in question because it was not being properly maintained. Happily this is not the case.

The bridge carries 200 trains per day at 50mph. This is a vast improvement on the 20mph restriction imposed in the early 1990s due to worn and splitting tracks. This improvement is thanks to a £3 million investment completely re-laying the bridge. Our commitment to its future could not be clearer.

The state of the bridge is assessed by experts in a wide range of engineering disciplines. The Health and Safety Executive has examined these assessments and deemed itself satisfied with both the structural integrity of the bridge and our maintenance programme. There has been no reduction in the level of maintenance since Railtrack became responsible for the bridge.

Public opinion published in the Scottish press points to the fact that people want to see even more done for the bridge as a "national monument". The Scottish Office itself seems to share the belief: as Lord James Douglas-Hamilton suggested last week, one possibility might be to set up a charitable trust. Perhaps in this way

the nation will be able to express its commitment to the bridge.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL PRESCOTT,  
Director, Railtrack Scotland,  
Railtrack PLC, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow,  
February 7.

From Professor P. W. Jowitt

Sir, Magnus Linklater's concerns for the Forth Bridge are well-founded. Although he refers to the Forth Bridge as "an extraordinary monument to Britain's engineering skills", it will only become a monument at the moment it ceases to function. For the time being it is a living engineering structure: a triumph of form and function on a massive scale.

Sooner or later the bridge's rusting and deteriorating condition will have serious structural implications. Once these set in, they will be difficult to arrest. If the Forth Bridge is allowed to become a rusted steel filigree then its whole raison d'être vanishes, and with it the vital artery of the rail network north of the Forth.

Railtrack's maintenance budget for the bridge clearly reflects a short-term view of the post-privatisation revenue from rail services to the north of Scotland. In the absence of any sensible national transport strategy, those prospects are poor. Railtrack's view that painting the bridge is a cosmetic job is patently absurd. Their claims that they are doing what is necessary to keep the bridge structurally sound are simply not credible, and will re-

## Floods caused by mismanagement

From Professor Roy Ward

Sir, Your correspondent Roger Boyes raises some important issues about the flood hazard (report, February 3). River floods are natural events. In their natural state river channels can carry only a fraction of the flows occurring during floods so that the remainder must spill on to the floodplain.

The channels and their adjacent floodplains are therefore complementary and together form the proper natural conveyance for the transmission of floodwaters. In many cases even major floods simply spill their waters on to unoccupied floodplains or "washlands" where they do little damage and may be beneficial, as in arid areas, where irrigation and soil fertilisation may depend on the natural flooding of rivers.

Floods constitute a "hazard" only where human encroachment into flood-prone areas has occurred. The tragedy in low-lying countries like Bangladesh, where such encroachment is inevitable, is that the economic cost of even quite modest protection against flooding is too high.

The near-tragedy experienced in The Netherlands appears to have resulted from a combination of upstream "eco-brutality", which exacerbated flood peaks on the Rhine and its tributaries, and downstream "eco-sentimentality", which prevented expenditure on renewing and improving existing protection schemes.

Both eco-brutality and eco-sentimentality result largely from the tunnel vision of "single-issue" activists, in development on the one hand, and conservation on the other. The flood hazard will only be addressed effectively by integrated programmes which take into account all the relevant factors within a river basin.

Yours truly,  
ROY WARD  
64 Newbiggin,  
Malton, North Yorkshire,  
February 3.

main so until a full and independent engineering study is commissioned by the Scottish Office and the Department of Transport.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL W. JOWITT  
(Chairman, Edinburgh and East of Scotland Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers),  
Heriot-Watt University,  
Department of Civil and Offshore Engineering,  
Riccarton, Edinburgh 1.

From Mr David Shelton

Sir, Your reference to some mythical object called the "Forth Rail Bridge", is a gaffe on a par with calling the world's greatest golf tournament the "British" Open. There is only one Forth Bridge. The other is respectfully titled the "Forth Road Bridge".

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SHELTON,  
2 Spire Court, Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr R. C. Mitchell-Heggs

Sir, In your report on the state of dilapidation of the Forth Bridge you highlighted reasons why it could not be repaired in the traditional manner.

Today you carry a photograph of the seven-yearly facelift that is beginning on the Eiffel Tower.

Is there a message for us here?

Yours faithfully,  
R. C. MITCHELL-HEGGS,  
29 Cloncurry Street, SW6,  
February 8.

## Small change

From Mr Eric Sassoon

Sir, This morning you quote from a Royal Mint survey that £42 million in loose change has disappeared from circulation (News in brief, February 2). This evening, by feeling down the sides of my armchair I retrieved £3.65. If all your readers were to check their armchairs, it is possible that a useful proportion of this missing money could be back in circulation next week?

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC SASSOON,  
15 Viceroy Court,  
Didsbury, Manchester,  
February 2.

## Advice from the top

From Mr Paul Eddington

Sir, In the light of the current furore over your revelations of a Government document I feel that I should share with you — with his permission — a letter which I have received today from my distinguished contemporary, Jim Hacker. It is written from the House of Lords:

Dear Paul, in those distant days of wine and roses when I was Prime Minister, I remember an occasion on which I was myself very troubled by a "leak". Sir Humphrey Appleby advised me then that, though courageous, it might nevertheless be unwise to set up an inquiry. "It could succeed in finding the culprit", he said, and he added, rather mysteriously I thought, that the Ship of State was unique in maritime circles in that it was the only vessel that leaked from the top. Yours ever, Hacker.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL EDDINGTON,  
c/o ICM Ltd,  
76 Oxford Street, WCI,  
February 7.

## Injured by animals

From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, Your report (February 7) on the successful claim for damages to a walker injured by cows creates an alarming precedent.

I keep horses on a couple of small fields, flanked by a footpath, and the only way I could ensure the safety of walkers would be to fence the path adequately.

Similar action could result in fences becoming alleyways between paths, with the resultant decline in their recreational value. Should there not be an acceptance of some minimal risk from livestock while out walking?

Yours sincerely,  
PHIL RIDGWAY,  
27 Naverne Meadows,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk,  
February 7.

## Custody of Ashes

From Mr Renzo Scacco

Sir, As an Antipodean now resident in England, I am thoroughly perplexed as to why the MCC continues to retain the Ashes trophy given the results of the last four Test series between our respective countries.

The legal definition of theft is "to permanently deprive someone of their property". Surely the results in recent years conclusively establish the Ashes as Australia's lawful property.

Yours sincerely,  
RENZO SCACCO,  
21 Wimbledon Close,  
The Downs,  
Wimbledon, SW20,  
February 8.

## Must try harder

From Mrs Liz Young

Sir, My daughter's school needlework project was a cookery apron, and the finished garment was marked thus: "C. Neatness and accuracy are 2 skills which you must practise."

I was suitably indignant. Especially since I'd done most of the wretched thing myself.

Yours faithfully,  
LIZ YOUNG,  
13 Cotswold Close,  
Kingston on Thames, Surrey,  
February 8.



## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 8: His Excellency Señor Jorge Borbon Zeller was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Costa Rica to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señor Juan Salas (Consul and Minister Counsellor), Señores Trejos (Minister Counsellor and Senior Jorge Montero (Minister Counsellor).

Señora de Borbon was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Air Commodore Peter Millar was received by the Queen on his appointment as Commander British Forces Cyprus and Administrator Sovereign Base Area Cyprus.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.30 pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newman MP (Lord President), the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting), the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP (Secretary of State for Defence), the Rt Hon Richard Neill MP (Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry), the Rt Hon Jeremy Huntley MP (Minister without Portfolio).

The Lord Amphil, Sir Robin Auld, Mr Michael Forsyth MP, Sir Philip Ouse and Sir Malcolm Pill were sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newman MP had an audience of the Queen before the Council.

The Federal President of the Republic of Austria visited the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and remained in London.

The following were invited: the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr Edith Mock, His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria and Mrs Henning and Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs).

Her Majesty invested the Federal President of the Republic of Austria with the insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

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## Scars tell of struggle to survive 110 million years ago

### Dinosaur showed backbone for fight

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE remains of a dinosaur that successfully fought off an attack from a carnivorous cousin have been unearthed on the Isle of Wight.

The victim was an iguanodon, a herbivorous dinosaur that was one of the commonest inhabitants of Europe between 130 and 110 million years ago. Its discoverer, fossil-hunter John Winch, 26, found that one of the creature's vertebrae showed evidence of having been broken, and then fused together again in a deformed shape.

"The position of the vertebrae shows that this iguanodon must have had its spine bent right out of position in what was probably an attack by a flesh-eating predator," he says. "The massive break appears too severe and unusual to have come from a fall."

The vertebra is eight inches in diameter, indicating that the iguanodon must have been a large one. The species lacked much in the way of defensive equipment, but probably attempted to fight off its unknown attacker with its large spiked thumb.

No evidence has been found to identify the creature that did the damage, but it is likely to have been one of the carnivores that flourished at the time.

It would not have been the best-known flesh-eater, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which did not evolve until much later.

Steve Hutt, curator of the island's geological museum at Sandown, said: "This is a fabulous vertebra and shows how this creature must have lived through great trauma for a long while after suffering injury. It is extremely unusual to find a broken dinosaur bone of this nature, let alone one that has fused together in such a way."

The iguanodon fought back with its spiked thumb



Fossil-hunter John Winch with the deformed vertebra from a badly injured iguanodon that he discovered on the Isle of Wight

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## Forthcoming marriages

### Mr P.J.W. Byng and Miss A.J. Scott

The engagement is announced between Patrick, second son of Mr and Mrs Julian Byng, and Anna, daughter of Sir Kenneth Scott and the late Mrs Gabrielle Scott.

### Mr A.M. Cleave and Miss P.A. Minshull

The engagement is announced between Alexander, second son of Mr and Mrs John Cleave, of Cowden, Kent, and Philippa Ann, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Ray Minshull, of Loxwood, West Sussex.

### Mr G. Kinnings and Miss R.M. Finister

The engagement is announced between Guy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Terence Kinnings, of Shrewsbury, and Rebecca, younger daughter of the late Mr Malcolm Finister and of Mrs Finister, of Fencott-on-Osmor, Oxfordshire.

### Mr C.J. Marshall and Miss S.E. Appin

The engagement is announced between Cameron, younger son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Marshall, of Sandal, Wakefield, and Sia, daughter of the late Mr Kenneth Appin and of Mrs Appin, of Kingston Vale, London, SW15.

### Mr R.F. Milbank and Miss A.C. von der Heyde

The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr Mark Milbank and Mrs Fran Milbank, of Wedza, Zimbabwe, and Amanda Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin von der Heyde, of Vigla, Mvurwi, Zimbabwe.

### Mr G.T. Palmer and Miss M.G.A. Carlisle

The engagement is announced between Guy, younger son of Mr Richard Palmer, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Fiona Barnes, of Highgate, London, and Maxine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carlisle, of Great Bookham, Surrey.

### Mr J. Martin and Miss C.L. Philpott

The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs John Martin, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Philpott, of Tonbridge, Kent.

### Mr D. Palmer and Miss B. Hurst

The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr G.A. Palmer and Mrs G. Watson, and Bettina, youngest daughter of Mrs N. Hurst.

### Mr T.H. Trafford and Miss S.M. Siding

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Trafford, of Monkswood, Devon, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stirling, of Garden, Stirlingshire.

### Mr L.T. Wood and Miss S.B. Geering

The engagement is announced between Leslie, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Wood, of North Shields, Tyne and Wear, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Geering, of Bath.

### Marriages

Mr E.L. Davies and Miss P.A. Molyneux. The marriage took place on Feb. 4, 1995, in Beverley, East Yorkshire, between Leslie Davies and Pauline Molyneux, both of North Ferriby, North Humberside.

Mr S.F. McCausland and Miss S.A. Wong. The marriage took place on May 25, 1994, between Shane Francis, youngest son of the late Marcus Edgumbe McCausland and of Mrs Peter Welsh, of Drenagh, Limavady, and Sarah-Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George A.S. Wong, of Las Mandarinas, Mijas, Spain. A service of blessing will take place in June.

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## Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will present the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of London University will also attend.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of Opportunities for People with Disabilities, will attend the World Young Business Achievers luncheon at the Hilton Carlton Hotel at 1.00; as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, will attend the City and Guilds College Association's annual dinner at Carpenters' Hall at 7.15.

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Purcell Tercentenary Festival, will attend a concert performance of *Dido and Aeneas* given by The King's Consort at the Wigmore Hall at 7.30.

Prince Edward will attend the Lady Taverers reception at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing

Export Council, will attend the London Interseason show at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, at 2.30; and as Chancellor of London University will attend a dinner at Guildhall at 6.55 in honour of the Royal Anniversary Trust's higher and further education prize winning institutions.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Honorary Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, will attend the opening proceedings of the Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall at 10.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the National Missing Persons Helpline, will visit the offices at Redbank House, 384-386 Richmond Road West, SW14, at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Swada (London) at Sugar House Lane at 9.55; and will visit Kessler International, Worton Road, Stratford, at 11.25.

## Memorial services

### Major-General Norman Foster

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Norman Foster will be held yesterday at St Paul's Church, Farnham. The Rev N.S. McGregor officiated and the Right Rev Michael Scott, Joynett led the prayers. Mr Christopher Foster, son, read *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran. Colonel Tom Haywood gave an address.

Mr Resy Peake. Requiem Mass for Mrs Resy Peake was celebrated by Father Wilfrid Tighe at Brompton Oratory yesterday. Mr David Peake, son, read the lesson.

### Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company. Professor P.G. Moore, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented awards to City and Guilds vocational education students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. The Master, Warden and Court also received Mr Paul Watts, Chairman of City and Guilds, and representatives of City and Guilds and Mr T. Boswell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Further and Higher Education, Department of Education. Sir Bryan Nicholson also spoke.

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## Dinners

### Royal College of Surgeons

The Speaker was the principal guest and speaker at the Hunterian dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Sir Norman Browse, president, was in the chair. Sir Christopher Paine, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mr Alan Lentin, Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, also spoke. Earlier, Professor John Alexander-Williams, vice-president of the college, delivered the Hunterian Oration.

London Goodenough Trust. Sir Christopher Wiles, Vice-Chairman of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr David Evans, director, received the guests at the annual Hilary term dinner held last night at London House and William Goodenough House. Among those present were:

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Lord MacLachlan, Lord and Lady Maresfield, Lord and Lady Pym, the Hon. Sir Humphrey and Lady Maud, Lady Wiles, Sir Douglas and Lady Dods-Parker, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter and Lady Duffell, Lady French, Sir John and Lady Frewell, Sir Peter and Lady Marshall, Sir James and Lady

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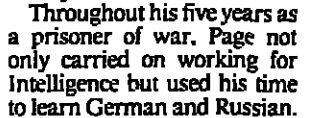
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## BRIGADIER KENNETH PAGE

He was among those forced to march 300 miles on scanty

He served in a coastal defence battery near Karachi (now in Pakistan) before being switched to the staff and being



**Geneva Convention.** There followed three idyllic years as military commander in the Caribbean, at a time of the first stirrings towards inde-

on leave from the First World War, died in 1975 four years after their golden wedding. In 1987, aged 89, he married his second wife Joan, a farmer's widow who had served with him on Dorset County Council. He is survived by her and by two sons from his first marriage.

**WILLI SOUKOP**

A chance meeting and invitation brought him in 1934 on a visit to Dartington Hall.



From 1935 to 1945 Soukop taught at Dartington (with a break of nine months in 1940 when, as an Austrian citizen,

Willi Soukop married Simone Moser, a dancer and teacher, in 1945 and they had a son and a daughter, all of whom survive him.

## DAVID KINDERSLEY

Computerised typesetting systems fascinated Kindersley and he worked with Cambridge scientific colleagues on *their study*. He designed an optical letter-spacer which was built by Cambridge Consultants with the help of

The son of a stockbroker and educated at Marlborough, David Guy Barnabas Kindersley had first worked for a firm of Italian marble-carvers, mostly translating into marble and stone the clay models of eminent 1930s Royal Academicians. It was then, reading Eric Gill's writings and instinctively and intellectually embracing the notion of truth to materials, that he

Countless memorial plaques, foundation stones, coats of arms and inscriptions on buildings throughout the country are his work, making him among the most successful public artists of the period. Many have seen an inscrip-

tion by Kindersley without knowing it to be his. One of his favourite sayings, from Idries Shah, was "the work is hidden in the workshop". It appeared in one of his several publications, *Graphic Sayings* (1973). He contributed not only to his own history but the history of his craft with a number of books, some technical, some essays and anthologies, both verbal and visual, including *Eric Gill – Further Thoughts of an Apprentice*, first published in 1967. After the letterer Lida Lopes Cardozo, from Holland, joined David Kindersley's workshop in the late 1970s they published Cardozo Kindersley Editions.

**HIS HONOUR EDWARD SUTCLIFFE**

**EDWARD SUTCLIFFE** was not merely one of the few surviving Additional Judges of the Central Criminal Court to have been appointed by the City of London; he was also the only surviving Recorder (latterly honorary) of the city of Canterbury.

When in 1969 he became Judge of the Central Criminal Court, his previous judicial appointments automatically lapsed; it was, therefore, a matter of immense satisfaction to him that the city of Canterbury appointed him in 1974 its Honorary Recorder, an appointment which he regarded as demanding his active participation and involvement in the life of the city. His work was recognised by the city's bestowal of its freedom upon him in 1983.

As a judge Edward Sutcliffe displayed all the qualities that had marked him out as a successful barrister but combined them with a mixture of realism, compassion, dignified humour, and common sense that was all his own. Awakened from the Bench, he was a man of sincere modesty and unaffected courtesy. His interest in the young was deep and genuine: he was devoted to and justly proud of, his family and was always a genial, generous, and considerate host and companion.

He is survived by his wife Elsie, whom he married in 1939, and their two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]







Enter the smart card that cuts costs — the Amex way for companies to control travel budgets as their executives fly the world

## Saving millions on business travel

There has to come a day when there are no more cuts to be made, no more inefficiencies to be rooted out, no more jobs which can be shed, contracted out or done at home rather than in the office, and no new technology which can revolutionise our lives. But that day is still a very long way off as far as the travel business is concerned.

I have just spent two days with men and women who are convinced that the biggest transformation in business travel is just around the corner. It will be a change so irresistible that companies who use it first will save so much that their competitors will be driven out of business. This, in turn, will, of course, mean thousands more jobs lost — probably including those of the men and women of American Express in Phoenix, Arizona, who are now working out how it can be

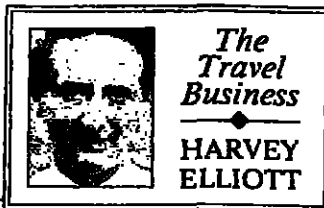
implemented. But that is not stopping them from pursuing their task with a clean-cut, all-American zeal which is both awe-inspiring and terrifying.

Business men and women will, they say, continue to travel in ever increasing numbers, especially as the world's economy improves and the vestiges of the recession are left behind.

But, according to American Express, they will be tied electronically by a "smart card" to their headquarters at all times, their every item of expenditure monitored, often before they swipe their card through the machines which the customer businesses will need to install if they too are to survive. Cutting costs will be top priority

at all times. Only those airlines which can undercut their rivals with rock-bottom fares will get the business of the handful of agencies — only one if American Express has any say — who will control the travel-buying policies of the vast majority of the world's corporations. Business men and women will be allowed to stay only in those hotels which give the best corporate rate, and eating out will be allowed only if the approved restaurant cuts its prices to those now more commonly seen in a fast-food café.

It all, perhaps, sounds so sensible. The only way that many companies are going to be able to survive is if they compete in cutting costs and become efficient. Certainly it will please the accountants, but the coming revolution will also mean inevitably that tens of thousands of small travel agencies, hundreds of hotels and dozens of airlines will have to be sacrificed in the drive for efficiency. It will also finally kill any lingering glamour attached to business travel, especially over long distances.



More than \$400 billion is spent worldwide on business travel each year. On average each company in America spends \$2.6 million, or \$2,500 per employee. It is a massive drain and one which American Express and other business travel agencies now claim to be able to cut to make each company more competitive. By using their enormous buying power to obtain the lowest rate, by rationalising firms' travel policies and forcing them to keep a tight rein on their employees' expenses, they quickly proved that travel and related expenditure could be cut by at least 15 per cent at a stroke.

One big international company had been using 150 different travel agencies to send its staff on

business trips. Now they use only American Express and have saved \$50 million in a year. Other travel companies in other countries also made impressive savings for their clients, so Amex simply bought them, spending over \$600 million in the last year alone, including \$375 million for Thomas Cook business travel.

Now Amex believes even bigger savings can be made through its greater buying power. It is convinced that by the year 2000, if not before, one corporate card will be issued to most international business travellers which will act as an airline ticket, hotel-room key, car-rental contract, telephone-calling card, insurance policy and even taxi-fare payer. It will only work,

however, if the lowest possible price has first been confirmed by the traveller's own "gold-digging" personal computer, which will automatically sift out the nuggets from the prices quoted in any given town or city to find the cheapest available.

The businessman's expenses will then be back on the boss's desk before he has even finished his meal. It will be the clinical, efficient, computerised and economically sensible way to make a deal. But for the long-distance business travellers, those whose eyes have "frequently flyer bags", there will still be the jet lag.

There is a lake in Arizona across which the old London Bridge has been rebuilt. It is rumoured that the man who bought it thought he was buying Tower Bridge.

I think I now know why he made such a mistake: he was suffering from jet lag.

Basic breaks with new comforts

## Humble gite fights back

Families booking a traditional gite holiday in France this summer will have more room in the Volvo. Brittany Ferries and Gites de France — Britain's two biggest operators to France — are now providing linen and towels in many of their properties.

The shift away from a basic cottage break in rural France to a more pampered existence is echoed elsewhere in the industry. Two French campsites owned by Haven Europe will provide linen in their mobile homes. And Moon is offering a cook and maid service in half a dozen Côte d'Azur properties at a premium of between £100 and £150.

Haven owns and operates sites at Les Chartreuses in Charente-Maritime and Le Lac des Reves, near Cannes. More than a third of its 90,000 UK holiday-makers stay on the two sites. Dawn Cremin, Haven Europe's marketing manager, said: "Customers are paying a lot of money for top-of-the-range mobile homes, so every extra bit helps."

Gites de France has more than 2,000 properties in France and Brittany Ferries 1,300. About 30 per cent of Gites de France properties will

offer all-inclusive holidays. Alex Baloney, the company secretary, said: "Within three years, we will have all gites in the scheme." Brittany Ferries will offer three categories of gite holidays, although heating will be extra. Julie Burrows, the product manager, added: "Price is all important so it would be wrong to penalise people who had to pay for heating in advance in case the weather turned out to be hot."

Linen is offered but only 50 per cent want it

The initiatives come as the market for gite holidays has stuttered after 17 years of growth and amid increasing competition in the post-Channel Tunnel demand for France. France is also under threat from emerging destinations such as Portugal, where virtually all rural properties include towels and linen and prices are 20 per cent lower.

Despite the trend, one specialist said not all British families were abandoning the dream of a basic, isolated holiday. John Parker, managing director of Just France, has offered linen on site for the past three years, at an extra cost — but only half of his customers take it up.

STEVEN KEENAN

## Sloping off suddenly

Quick ski breaks can be successful, says a surprised Doug Sager

Neal Manuel found that the amount of work involved in his job as financial director of a fashion house left him no time for winter skiing holidays, so he quit his job and opened a skiing-holiday agency, FlexiSki.

Mr Manuel concentrates on two of Europe's most fashionable resorts, Courchevel and Verbier, and focuses on City clientele. Eighty per cent of FlexiSki's weekend breaks are corporate incentive accounts. I turned up in Courchevel a day after a party of London bankers had vacated FlexiSki's elegant Lodge Nogentil.

The most successful British travel operators today are the skiing specialists. Thomson, a one-time market leader, has retreated from America and is cutting back all over Europe. Specialists such as Ski Esprit, for families with small children, and The Ski Company, for wealthy adults, prosper in niche markets.

FlexiSki can lay on jet flights from London City Airport direct to the airport in Courchevel, or arrange a weekend in Verbier only hours before the final Thursday evening flight to Geneva. Flexibility for day trips and for ten-day, holiday centres on scheduled flights, lightning transfers and instant access to hotel rooms.

Verbier aficionados need only hear that FlexiSki maintains its own private table at the Farm Club to understand how well the firm is established locally. In Courchevel, where



Courchevel, one of the most fashionable resorts, is ideal for a well-organised short break

British clients are not always warmly welcomed, FlexiSki seems to have negotiated an honorary "French" status among its selected hoteliers. I have always had a sceptical attitude towards weekend skiing, considering that four days cost almost as much as a full week. But as anyone who has suffered the Wednesday wobbles on a seven-day package can attest, four serious days' skiing is about as much as a flatland Engländer can

safely manage at one go. Weekend skiers are denied the full range of the Alps. Flying and transfer times rule out Austria and Italy, not to mention Zermatt and St Moritz. Mr Manuel's experience is that weekend warriors are, foremost, party animals. That is why he has picked Verbier, and Courchevel. Verbier, an hour and 45 minutes from Geneva airport, has the quickest transfer in the Alps to hardcore, off-piste skiing and

intensive nightlife. Courchevel has the most extensive intermediate skiing in Europe. A workaday skier myself, I arrived in Courchevel too late for the weekend's Russian evenings at La Bergerie. But I'll be there at the FlexiSki table in the Farm Club in Verbier this weekend.

● FlexiSki: 0171 352 0044. Weekends at Verbier and Courchevel start at £325, including flights, transfers and half board accommodation.

Large companies are seeking better travel discounts for staff

Senior officials from British Airways are next week meeting the UK's leading business travel agencies to determine the shape of corporate travel buying in response to changes in new technology and pressure from large companies to control travel costs.

The meeting will be the first of several BA is holding with travel agents and large companies over the next few months to generate a debate on the future relationship between airlines, companies and travel agents.

Business travel agents are worried that big companies, keen to keep travel costs under control, increasingly want to deal directly with airlines to secure cheaper fares. At present, the leading airlines give travel agents commission, usually about 9 per cent of the fare, as an incentive to sell their tickets. There are also incentives, called "overrides", which give travel agents extra commission.

But large companies argue

## Agents under fares pressure

that the agents do little to earn such commissions and increasingly believe they should get more direct benefit for buying large numbers of airline tickets. British Steel, for example, recently decided to consolidate its £5 million a year spent on air tickets with BA through its travel shops rather than with a specialist business travel agency.

In America, several major companies have formed an organisation called the Business Travel Contractors Corporation (BTCC) to negotiate directly with the airlines. There is now speculation that

a similar group may be formed in the UK, after a visit to London last week by Kevin Mitchell, the BTCC's president, who met government officials and industry representatives.

Richard Lucente, BA's national field sales manager, who is leading next week's talks with business travel agents, insists that BA is not trying to ease them out of business.

"Even in the US," he says, "where companies and airlines have tried to bypass agents for the past 20 years,

about half of all sales still go through agents. In the UK, about 80 per cent of our sales are through agents. So they are going to remain important to us for a long time."

But he believes that the development of new technology in ticket reservations and remote printing, especially the new combined European tickets and boarding passes, means that agencies and companies need to discuss the long-term implications.

Other airlines are also paying attention to BA's attempt to bring the business of travel buying out in the open. Stewart Mettrick, the head of sales at AirUK, recently acknowledged the concern among corporate travel buyers at the "closeness of the agent-supplier relationships".

DAVID CHURCHILL

### TRAVEL IN BRIEF

## Take the romantic line on a Pullman

NOW THAT February 14 is drawing closer, true romantics can book a St Valentine's Day lunch or dinner trip on the British Pullman (0171 928 6000) for £170 a person, boarding at Victoria Station, London, and being whisked away for a scenic tour of the Kent countryside. *Marianne Curphey* writes. Or celebrate the day in London at Claridge's (0171 629 8860) with a five-course dinner for £60, then stay in a double room for £120 a person, including flowers and champagne on arrival and breakfast the next day. Superbreak (0904 679999) has a package combining seats for the musical *Crazy for You* with dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Grafton Hotel in London for £99 a person.

## Calling all pioneers

ENERGETIC people with the pioneering spirit are sought by the adventure holiday specialist Encounter Overland (0171-370 6845) for a reconnaissance expedition across Africa. The eight-week, 4,000-mile Blue Nile And Beyond journey will carve out a new route from Nairobi up to Cairo. It will take in Ethiopia and Eritrea, out of bounds for the last 15 years because of civil war. The 21 travellers taking part must be prepared to get involved in research such as checking out new campsites, food supplies and places of interest en route. The trip leaves Nairobi on April 29 and costs £1,190. It includes food, transport and camping accommodation, but return flights from the UK are excluded.

## Guide to the wild side

A TRAVEL show for independent and adventure travellers arrives in London this weekend, with advice on trekking in the Himalayas, exploring Central America or watching wildlife in its natural habitat. The Independent Traveller's World show (0171 930 4440) is at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London (nearest tube is Angel) and starts tomorrow at noon and on Saturday and Sunday at 10am. Entrance is £3 on Friday and £4.50 during the weekend.

## Wrongfooted

THE Ramblers Association has accused the Government of abandoning support for countryside recreation in favour of "medal-winning" sports. The association's president, the broadcaster Janet Street-Porter, right, claimed that the sports minister, Iain Sprouat, had banned the Sports Council from promoting walking, cycling and climbing. In Manchester yesterday, she said ramblers were intensifying their nationwide campaign to promote walking.



## Business prejudice

HOTELS ignore businesswomen, even accusing some of soliciting when they return to a hotel late at night, says a survey conducted among 500 women. The poll, conducted for the Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments in London's Piccadilly, revealed that 90 per cent of women complained that waiting staff assumed a male guest was choosing the wine and paying.

## Joining the club

TWO NEW British members have been admitted to the prestigious international Relais & Châteaux hotel consortium: the Stock Hill House Country House Hotel, near Gillingham, Dorset, and the Buckland Manor, near Broadway, Cotswolds.

● CORRECTION: Blackpool Pleasure Beach is not part of the Tussauds Group, as *The Times* reported on February 7 but an independent, family-owned company. We apologise for the error.

### WEEKEND TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Weekend on Saturday:  
● USA: Daniel Varadarajan in Maryland, Ian Brodie steams the Mississippi, Kate Bassett savours the Napa Valley  
● Cyprus: Nicole Swingley in the Turkish sector  
● Skiing: Andy Martin learns how to snowboard

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## JANET BUSH 29

Missing piece of the economic jigsaw



## BOOKS 38, 39

Why is the grin fading from Tony Blair?



## SPORT 42-48

Coach reviving rugby league's amateur heyday

NEW FILMS  
CROWNED  
BY MURDER  
Page 35

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

Lloyds Abbey sets aside £80m to cover mis-selling

## Record sum for pensions victims

BY ROBERT MILLER

LLOYDS Abbey Life has made a record £80 million provision to cover compensation for investors who were wrongly advised to switch or transfer out of occupational schemes and into personal pension plans.

The announcement prompted fears that the industry's bill for checking hundreds of thousands of policies and compensating investors who were mis-sold personal pension plans could top £3 billion. Initially it was estimated at £2 billion.

Lloyds Abbey Life, a subsidiary of

Lloyds Bank and the parent company of Black Horse Life and Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, was kicking off the sector's annual reporting season with a 2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £315.6 million. The company has a 3 per cent share of the personal pensions market.

By contrast, the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, which reports in March and which last year said it saw no need to make any specific provision for pensions mis-selling, has a 9 per cent market share. Its sales practices were informally investigated by Lauro, the outgoing regulator for life companies.

Bill Day, pensions officer at GMB, the general union, said: "On the basis of the 3 per cent market share of Lloyds Abbey Life we are now looking at a total bill for pensions mis-selling of at least £3 billion. We have identified thousands of our members who have been wrongly advised to switch or transfer out of good occupational or company schemes and into personal pensions."

He continued: "The companies that we have identified as being most at fault are headed by the Prudential and include household names such as Pearl and TSB. Yet

the Prudential has consistently refused to make any provision for pensions mis-selling. On the basis of the Lloyds Abbey Life market share the Prudential could be looking at a compensation bill of £250 million."

The Lloyds Abbey Life results are the first to be announced since the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, published a damning report into personal pensions mis-selling last October.

The SIB ordered life companies urgently to review the files of at least 350,000 investors, but nearly a million more could request a similar

review from their personal pension provider. After the SIB's report the Department of Trade and Industry, the regulator responsible for the financial health of Britain's life and pensions companies, wrote to all chief executives asking them to report back by the end of this month with an estimate of their compensation liabilities. The DTI also asked for an assessment of the financial implications of these liabilities.

Within the Lloyds Abbey Life group, Black Horse Financial Services, which made a pension provision of £35.4 million within the £80 million total, reported falls of 37 per

cent on single premium business and 19 per cent for regular premium business. The Black Horse agencies recorded a £3.7 million loss.

At Abbey Life itself pre-tax profits were down 8 per cent on the previous year to £123.8 million, with single premium business falling by 18 per cent.

In spite of the uncertain outlook for the pensions and insurance market Lloyds Abbey Life proposed to raise its final dividend from 18p last time to 19.5p per share for the year ending December 31.

Tempus, page 28

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCKMARKET INDEXES	
FT-SE 100	3072.5 (-0.2)
Yield	4.24%
FT-SE All share	1513.65 (+0.60)
Nikkei	18290.25 (-210.30)
New York	
Dow Jones	3950.18 (+12.78)*
S&P Composite	482.49 (+1.68)*

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	5 3/4% (5 3/4%)
Yield	7.65% (7.64%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6 1/2% (6 1/2%)
Life long gilt	102 1/2% (102 1/2%)
Future (Mar)	102 1/2% (102 1/2%)

STERLING	
New York	1.5530* (1.5565)
London	
\$	1.5525 (1.5577)

DM	2.2763 (2.2824)
FF	8.2273 (8.2730)
Sfr	2.0135 (2.0257)
Yen	153.82 (154.84)
\$ Index	78.6 (79.0)

London	1.5323* (1.5357)
DM	2.2992* (2.3125)
FF	8.2273 (8.2730)
Sfr	2.0135 (2.0257)
Yen	153.82 (154.84)
\$ Index	78.6 (79.0)

Tokyo close Yen	95.40
Brant 15-day (Apr)	\$16.50 (\$16.55)
London close	\$374.85 (\$374.85)
* denotes midday trading price	

## Prices rising

Manufacturers in every mainland region of Britain are now managing to put up their prices — and companies across the country are forecasting even larger price rises, according to new evidence yesterday from the Confederation of British Industry. Page 26

## Amstrad scrape

Amstrad, Alan Sugar's electronic group, barely scraped into profit in the first six months of the financial year, and provided further indications of grim Christmas trading in the high street. Page 27

## Rate rises have eased risk of inflation, says Bank report

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE outlook for inflation has recently become more favourable, despite the sharp uptick in prices and the surge in hiring that occurred just before Christmas, the Bank of England said yesterday in its quarterly *Inflation Report*.

The Bank said that the "expected strength of recent economic figures had been fully offset by the two rises in interest rates announced since November, when the last report was published. This monetary tightening, combined with lower monetary growth and clear signs of decelerating growth of domestic demand in the autumn, now made it more likely than it was three months ago that inflation would stay within its official target range."

Speaking at a new public briefing to accompany the quarterly report, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said that interest rate decisions would be made "one month at a time" and would not follow any pre-ordained game plan. He denied that Eddie George, the Bank Governor, had indicated in recent speeches that interest rates might now be close to peaking, but noted that inflation projections in the report were based, as usual, on the assumption of no further changes in interest rates.

He added: "I cannot tell you

when or whether interest rates will again have to go up. But the fact that interest rates have gone up and output growth has clearly slowed helps resolve some of the upside risk. We felt that the half-point increase in interest rates last week was warranted. We now have to wait and see what the next sets of data show."

The broadly favourable *Inflation Report* was cited by some dealers as contributing to sterling's continuing weakness in foreign exchange markets. The pound fell about a penny and a cent yesterday morning, largely because of nervousness about the stability of the Government after last week's dispute with the Ulster Unionists. Although British dealers dismissed speculation about an early election as ludicrous, they said that some foreign investors, with less understanding of the British political situation, were bailing out.

However, some analysts saw a more significant reason for sterling's recent weakness in the change in interest rate expectations since last month. Investors, they said, are increasingly questioning the previously widespread assumption that UK interest rates would rise to 8 per cent or even 9 per cent.

Pennington, page 27

## Postel calls for end to power stake limit

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

ONE of the biggest pension funds has been drawn into the Northern Electric bid battle by insisting that the electricity industry should ditch its main defence to hostile takeovers.

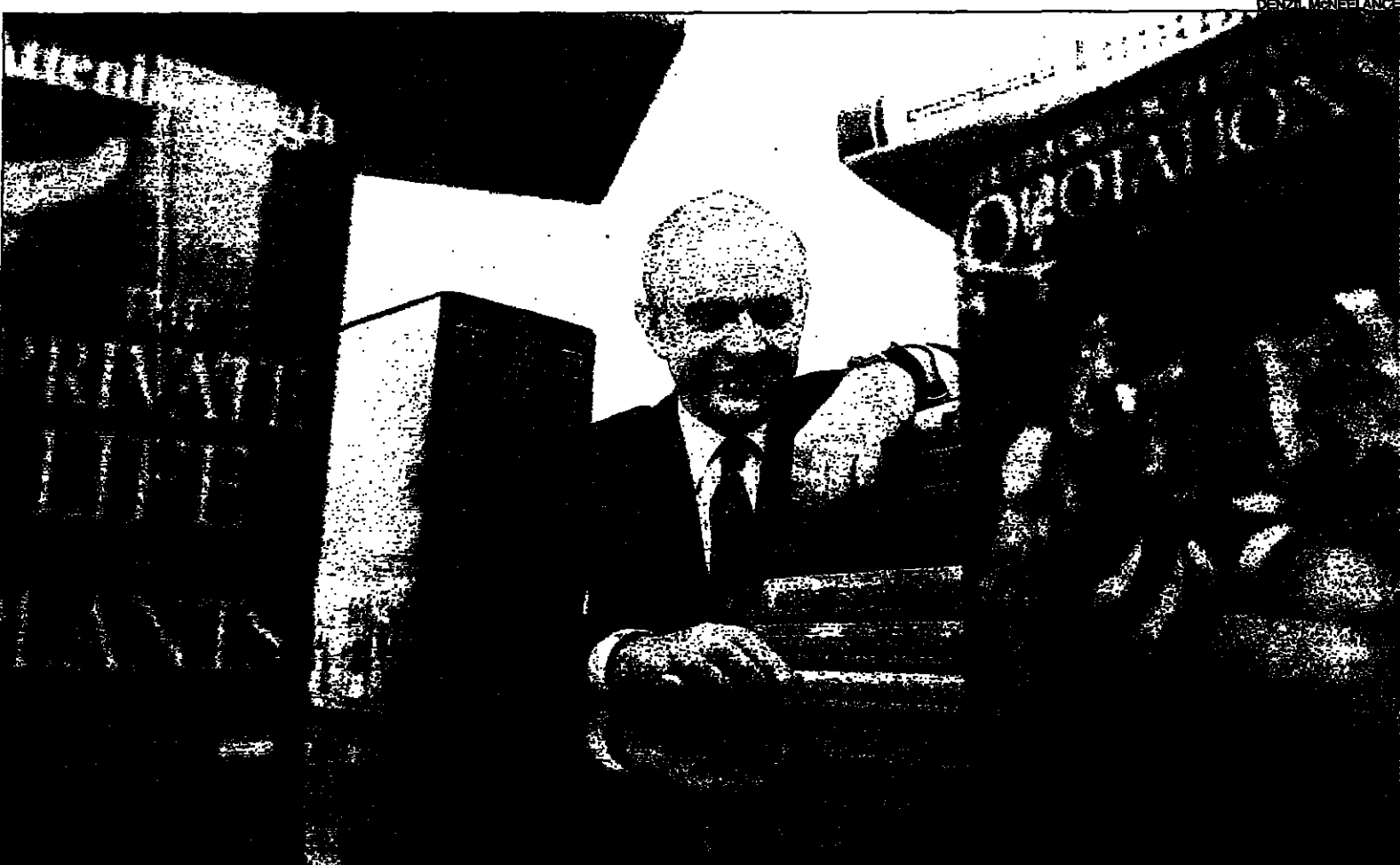
Postel, which represents the BT and Post Office pension funds, has written to all 12 regional power companies in England and Wales, asking them to abandon unilaterally the 15 per cent limit, built into their articles of association, on any one outside shareholding.

The fund, and other City investors, have already called a meeting of Northern shareholders next week to seek

deletion or amendment of the clause and are thought likely to succeed. There is the implicit threat that they will repeat the procedure at the other 11 companies, opening the industry to a wave of takeovers.

In the letter, David Adie, Postel's shareholder affairs executive, says: "I see no reason for a further five year restriction on share ownership in the regional electricity companies and believe this restriction to be unwelcome and a distortion of the market."

Northern attack, page 26  
Pennington, page 27



Coming to market: Roy Hill, chief executive of Bath Press Group, Britain's largest independent bookmaker, which is being brought to market by Diverse Acquisitions. The move values the group at £13.2 million. Hill Samuel is underwriter; Albert E Sharp is stockbroker. Dealings are set to begin on Monday

## Aluminium investors take flight

THE rout in the metals market spread to aluminium yesterday as hedge funds continued to take flight from commodities. The three-month price dropped to \$1,865 per tonne in renewed selling after Wednesday's losses, which had left the price at \$1,975 (Carl Morrishead writes).

Investors, largely American funds, are continuing to dump metals in large volume in the futures market because of anxiety about interest rates and the US recovery.

Aluminium has lost over 13 per cent of its value from its January peak of about \$2,150 per tonne, while copper has lost 9 per cent. Other base metals, such as nickel, lead, tin and zinc have slumped by as much as 20 per cent in the recent sell-off. Brokers expect the decline to continue.

"The scale of the sell-off has been unprecedented. It is across the board," said Nick Moore, metals analyst at Ord Minnett, the broker.

Heavy metal, page 29

## C&G made to call extra meeting

BY ROBERT MILLER

HUNDREDS of thousands of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society members excluded from the Lloyds Bank £1.8 billion bonus payout have won a notable victory.

Last night C&G was forced to call an extraordinary meeting to consider their views and further discuss the proposed takeover. The society added that the meeting would cost about £500,000 to convene.

C&G said that it had received at least 100 requisitions from members who do not qualify for payments. Under the society's rules, C&G must now arrange a further meeting in addition to the one already called for March 31. Details of the extra meeting will be sent to members within the next 28 days.

The four resolutions that will be put to the new meeting include a call for some way to be found for widows and other joint account holders to receive some benefit from the takeover and for the C&G board to negotiate a paper alternative to the cash payments to enable

members to defer capital gains tax liability. In addition, there is a resolution calling on the society to find some way to benefit members of less than two years' standing and the 375,000 borrowers who are excluded from the payout.

Paul Rivlin, founder of the C&G Alternatives action group, said: "It is now clear that C&G has misjudged the mood of its members. The society knows that there are thousands of members who are unhappy with the board's proposals and would like the opportunity to explain their views before they choose whether or not to accept the Lloyds bid."

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of C&G, said: "I do not know what this meeting is meant to achieve. It will certainly be of no benefit to the great majority of our customers. It is a total waste of money to have to call an additional meeting, for just 100 or so members, when they already know that one is being held on March 31."

## Charles Saatchi to quit and join brother

BY JON ASHWORTH

CHARLES SAATCHI will stand down as honorary life president of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency to join his brother Maurice in a rival agency "as soon as he is free to do so", it emerged yesterday. Rumours of his resignation broke as the fight to block the brothers and a trio of fellow defectors moved to the High Court.

Saatchi served writs on the brothers and three senior directors, Bill Muirhead, Jeremy Sinclair and David Kershaw, in a further attempt to prevent them from setting up a new

enterprise, dubbed The New Saatchi Agency. They are accused of infringing a registered trademark. Saatchi is seeking an injunction against the use of the name and will press for damages.

Saatchi last night denied that Charles had resigned, but admitted that he had signed heads of agreement relating to the formation of the new agency. This tallied with an affidavit read out in court yesterday, in which Charles said he intended to join his brother as soon as possible. He is on a five-year contract paying £312,000 a year.

Maurice Saatchi announced last month that he intended to set up a rival advertising agency. Since then, Saatchi & Saatchi has suffered further staff defections and has lost a handful of accounts, notably Mirror Group Newspapers, British Airways and Mars have put their accounts up for review.

Saatchi has now issued three separate waves of writs in an attempt to limit the damage. The first round, now before the High Court, seeks to bind the trio of defectors to the terms of their service contracts. Saatchi accuses the three of conspiring to damage its business and seeks to prevent them

from poaching staff or clients.

Maurice is separately accused of soliciting his three colleagues to join him. He has already hit back with a counter-writ, claiming Saatchi broke his contract when it dismissed him in December. He left in the face of a shareholder revolt led by David Herro, a fund manager based in Chicago. A third set of proceedings has been launched in America, accusing Mr Muirhead of removing confidential Saatchi files.

None of the parties was in court to hear the proceedings. A judgment is expected tomorrow.

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## Losing A Senior Secretary Is No Joke!

*It's not funny...*  
...when you have to organise a busy diary...by yourself!

*It's not amusing...*  
...when you miss Clients, because your temp doesn't know who they are!

*It's not a laugh...*  
...to watch your letters tray getting fatter & fatter every day!

*And it's certainly no joke...*  
...when you realise that you've not only lost an excellent team player, but a hardworking colleague, who understood your every move, the way you worked & someone who could truly represent you in your absence.

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# Making it easier for companies to get funding

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government may introduce an official certificate of financial management for companies that want to make it easier for them to attract external finance for investment.

The Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry are considering such a system to help industrial companies to obtain funding in the City and elsewhere.

The initiative was disclosed yesterday by the Treasury, which also accepted that short-termism in the City's financing of industry is still a difficulty in the UK, though it insisted that banks' attitudes to

business were improved. The idea of a new certificate in financial management — which some ministers will be wary of for fear of giving approval to subsequently poorly performing firms — has arisen out of the Treasury's review of the financing available to British industry.

It has certain similarities to the Government's Investors in People quality standard on training. Treasury officials believe that a new certificate would be an added incentive to companies to train personnel properly in financial management. Short-termism and financial control of British industry has been widely seen as a significant contribu-

tor to the UK's poor competitive performance against other major industrialised countries.

Anthony Nelson, Treasury Economic Secretary, told MPs yesterday that the Treasury had not been able to conclude, after its review of financing available for industry, that British industry was no longer affected by short-termism. "I wish one could conclude that," he said. "But I don't yet think one can."

Mr Nelson, giving evidence to the Commons all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee, revealed the conclusions of the Treasury's review, originally set up under Stephen Dorrell, now the Heritage

Secretary. He said that investment in the UK had been behind that of its major competitors, though in recent years Britain had caught up with most. Only Japan was still ahead. He said: "I believe we are on the right track."

The Treasury paper prepared for the Commons committee said biases in the tax system towards the distribution, rather than the retention of corporate profits, tended to work better for larger companies, with some "less desirable" implications for other firms. Many small businesses have complained about their banks, and despite Government action the Treasury's docu-

ment revealed that problems still exist: "Despite significant progress in a number of areas, bank lending to small businesses remains the focus of criticism", with particular problems faced by small but growing innovative companies.

Mr Nelson said the single overwhelming message from industry was the need for a stable and strong macroeconomic environment, with low inflation and low interest rates. While there were problems for both the City and industry, he did not think that industry generally was unable to obtain the funds it needed.

Economic View, page 29

## Industries are driving up prices nationwide

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURERS in every mainland region of Britain are now managing to put up their prices — and companies across the country are forecasting even larger price rises, according to new evidence yesterday from the Confederation of British Industry.

The wide spread of manufacturing price increases emphasises the need felt by the Treasury and the Bank of England last week for a further rise in interest rates to stave off increases in inflation.

CBI leaders had urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, not to raise rates again, but signs of inflationary pressures arising from higher price expectations shown by CBI survey evidence were a key factor in the decision to raise base rates for the third time in five months. The latest evidence from the

CBI — its regional breakdown of its quarterly industrial trends survey — shows that price pressures run right across the country.

The regional survey, carried out with Business Strategies, the regional economic consultants, shows that companies in all mainland regions of Britain are now managing to increase prices.

Although the balance of companies — those recording an increase set against those registering a fall — raising their prices stands at 10 per cent nationally, the spread is much wider regionally. In the North West, a balance of a quarter of all companies are increasing prices, followed by 23 per cent in East Anglia and a fifth in the South East. A balance of 5 per cent of companies in Northern Ireland are still seeing prices fall.

In interpreting price evidence from its surveys, CBI leaders have emphasised that manufacturers have not always managed to make intended price rises stick, but the regional analysis shows companies across the country managing to move over the last nine months from falling prices generally to being able to raise them.

Looking to the next four months, companies in all regions, including Northern Ireland, expect to put up their prices — by much higher levels.

Nationally, a balance of a third of all firms are forecasting rises, but it is 43 per cent in the West Midlands, 42 per cent in the South West and 37 per cent in Yorkshire. Lowest expectations are in the East Midlands and Northern Ireland, though even here strong rises are forecast.

The CBI yesterday said that there was "no obvious link" between areas with the fastest economic growth, such as Wales and the West Midlands, and increases in costs and prices.

The survey showed orders rising in all areas for the fourth successive quarter. Output is also rising in all areas, as is export demand.

## Compel confident on year

COMPEL GROUP, the computer systems and services company that came to market last September, is confident on prospects for the full year after reporting a 20 per cent advance in first-half profits (Philip Pangalos writes).

Increased business from new and existing customers helped pre-tax profits to rise to £1.19 million in the six months to December 31, against £993,000 last time, on turnover up by 16 per cent to £28.3 million.

Neville Davis, chairman, said: "The second half has started well and underlying market trends are positive for our business."

Earnings per share grew by 11 per cent to 5.56p (5.02p). A 143p debut interim dividend is due on April 28. The shares, placed at 125p, closed 6p up at 115p.



Time for a quote: Eddie Leung plans to build a factory in China and open more shops

## Hong Kong watchmaker plans float

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DAILYWIN GROUP, the Hong Kong-based designer and manufacturer of watches and watch components used in some of the world's most popular brands, plans a stock market flotation this month in a move expected to value it at up to £20 million.

The company, founded by chairman Eddie Leung in 1978, has design and administrative offices in Hong Kong and manufacturing facilities in Guangdong Province in China. Dailywin now makes and assembles watches to customers who market their products under well-known names, including Timex, Accurist, Casio, Seicoda, and Anne Klein, as well as leading Swiss and French brands.

Dailywin has three shops and 47 concessions in department stores in China, and its own brand, Saga, which is marketed solely in China.

A placing this month will raise about £5 million, with a net £2.6 million for the company. The proceeds will be used to build a factory in China, open another 33 concessions and five shops in China, fund an advertising campaign, and provide working capital. The company made £1.43 million pre-tax profits in the eight months to November 30, on sales of £18.9 million. It forecasts pre-tax profits of not less than £2.17 million for the year to March 31.

## French steel firm returns to profit

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

USINOR SACLOR, the French state steel company being groomed for privatisation, swung back into profit last year. Ranked number three in the world after Nippon Steel and Posco of South Korea, Usinor reversed a 1993 loss of FF5.7 billion (£689 million) to make FF1.5 billion (£181 million) during the year to end-December 1994.

The return to profit, which puts Usinor on course for a sale in the summer, after this spring's French presidential election, is good news for British Steel. The privatised British steelmaker, which ranks number four in the world, seeks allies in its battle against subsidies, which it blames for propping up un-

economic capacity in southern Europe and depressing prices.

The sale of Usinor, which is 30 per cent owned by the French state and 20 per cent by the troubled state-owned bank Crédit Lyonnais, is expected to raise up to FF27 billion (£3.26 billion).

Francis Mer, the chairman, yesterday predicted that 1995 and 1996 were likely to be good years for the steel industry. But a correction was likely in 1997, he said.

Usinor's sales climbed from FF75.3 billion to FF79.6 billion (£9.62 billion), aided by strong growth in flat steel products. Debt fell by FF7 billion to FF17.4 billion (£2.1 billion).

## Northern attacks Trafalgar record

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, fighting off a £1.2 billion hostile offer from Trafalgar House, has attacked its bidder's financial record as the worst in its industrial sector, and its complex ownership structure as potentially giving rise to conflicts of interest.

The latest letter to Northern shareholders was immediately attacked by Rodney Leach, a non-executive director of Trafalgar, as "defamatory", and Trafalgar says it is considering all possible remedies, including legal action.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, says Trafalgar's main trading businesses have underperformed. The group, whose interests span shipping, property and building,

"has the worst return on sales amongst the companies which are classified as diversified industrials within the FT All Share index," he says.

Northern's latest broadside, urging continued rejection of the bid, makes much of the claim that Trafalgar is "in effect" controlled by a minority shareholder, Hongkong Land, with 26 per cent. Mr Leach attacked this view as insulting to the "very powerful independent directors" on the Trafalgar board, of which he is one. He attacked as defamatory a request by Mr Morris that the directors explain why the latest report and accounts did not reassure shareholders that the company was a "going concern" financially.

## Regulator attacks secretive BT

By ERIC REGULY

DON CRUICKSHANK, Director-General of Telecommunications, yesterday accused British Telecom of impeding the industry's move towards open competition by being unnecessarily secretive.

At a seminar in London, Mr Cruickshank said BT chose to make confidential submissions to OfTel regarding implementation of separate accounting for separate activities. He said: "BT asked me to respond to confidential submissions... The result has been a lack of transparency and understanding by the rest of the industry of what BT's position is." He also took a

swipe at the effort by Mercury Communications to get the courts to examine the way BT charges rivals to connect calls to its network. Mercury expects to learn this week from the House of Lords whether it can proceed with its case.

"During the last year, OfTel has found itself working in a more legalistic and adversarial atmosphere. The effect may be to slow down the very changes everyone wants to see," he said.

BT seemed startled by the Director-General's statements. It noted that discussions about changes to BT's licences have been held in

confidence for the past decade. It now says its position on separate accounting will be put on the public record "within the next two weeks".

Separate accounting, due to start in April, will force BT to publish detailed accounts of connection fees and access-deficit fees, the tariff it collects from competitors to maintain its local network. OfTel also wants greater powers to investigate BT's accounting procedures. BT said "the full range of unfettered discretionary powers now being sought by OfTel go substantially further than is required to achieve accounting separation."



Cruickshank: critical

## BUSINESS FOUNDING

## Blair and Heseltine for BCC conference

TONY BLAIR, Leader of the Labour Party, is to address the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce in Aberdeen. Government speakers will include Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and John Watts, Transport Minister, who is responsible for roads. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, will also speak. The line-up is completed by Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, Chris Fay, chairman of Shell UK, and Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco.

The remarkable quality of speakers at the 14-day conference, getting under way on May 11, confirms a determined effort by the BCC to enhance its public profile and match the publicity attracted by the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry. However, unlike the set-piece speeches that characterise the CBI's gathering, the Chambers will seek to promote debate between speakers and the 700 delegates expected to attend. Under the banner "Towards the Millennium", the conference will cover a range of topics. The opening debate, on Britain's prospects in the global economy, will be followed by discussion of employment issues, the impact of the information technology revolution, transport infrastructure needs and support for business.

## Construction reform

A NEW construction industry body was launched yesterday to take forward reform proposals, which aim to cut the cost of building projects 30 per cent by 2000. The Construction Industry Board will be chaired by Sir Michael Latham, author of a report that recommended major reforms in the sector. John Gummer, Environment Secretary, will be president of the new body. The Latham report was the first major attempt for 30 years to tackle the ills of the construction industry. It branded the sector as conflict-ridden and made 30 proposals to help to meet the productivity target.

## US sales forge ahead

SALES in the US at the wholesale level recorded the strongest rise in four months during December while stocks of unsold goods rose for a sixth consecutive month, the Commerce Department announced. Total sales by merchant wholesalers were up 2.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$181.16 billion following a revised 0.7 per cent gain in November. For the full year, wholesale sales increased 6.8 per cent, the strongest annual gain in six years since an 8.7 per cent jump in 1988. Sales in the final two months of 1994 were brisk, contrary to earlier indications.

## Changes for Crossroads

CROSSROADS OIL, the struggling exploration company, has come to the end of the road in its present form. Crossroads is to be absorbed by Melrose, a company that drills for oil and gas in New Mexico and Texas in the United States. After a reverse takeover deal involving placing \$18.9 million of new shares at 20p, the company will change its name to Melrose Energy. Stock market dealing in the shares of Crossroads Oil was suspended pending an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on March 6 to discuss the takeover.

## Conrad Ritblat ahead

CONRAD Ritblat Sinclair Goldsmith, the quoted surveyors, raised pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £673,000 in the half-year to November 30. John Ritblat, chairman, who also chairs British Land, the property company, predicted a satisfactory result for the full year and held out the prospect of longer term profitability from reorganisation and expansion. Revenue was £5.9 million (£5.6 million) and CRSG expects a revenue boost from surplus space in buildings acquired for its occupation last year. An interim dividend of 0.15p is the first since Conrad Ritblat and Sinclair Goldsmith merged in 1993.

## Accounts prizes for BP and Graseby

By ROBERT BRUCE

BRITISH PETROLEUM and Graseby plc have won the 1995 awards for best published accounts. The awards, which are co-sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountant institutes, are made each year for the best accounts from a large and a small company.

Speaking after the presentations, Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, said: "One of the reasons I was so delighted to read the accounts of BP and Graseby was to notice the extent to which both companies made conscious efforts to describe their financial and operational activities."

That point was taken up by Richard Sykes QC, the chairman of the judges. He said that BP was chosen for devoting a full page to corporate governance and for relevant accounting and figures intelligibly adjusted to give the US GAAP numbers for American shareholders.

Steve Ahearn, BP's chief financial officer, said: "David Tweedie and the ASB are doing us all a great service in building a good reporting framework."

In reply to finance directors who called for fewer rules, he

said: "Even the best rules won't stop determined crooks, but to use that as an argument for dispensing with rules seems rather like saying that because some people drive like mad men we shouldn't have a Highway Code."

John Jackson, chairman of Graseby, the medical and technology group, said it tried to present a balanced report expressed in plain language. "We believe that our attitude helps the company because it demonstrates the company's confidence in itself."

Sir David said the reputation of financial reporting in the UK was changing. Britain had moved back into the international mainstream. He was impressed by "the way in which BP and Graseby had entered into the spirit of voluntary disclosures". This was echoed by John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the London Stock Exchange. He said that financial reporting is striking a good balance in terms of the quality and quantity of information provided, thereby ensuring that reasonable needs and requirements of shareholders are met, without being over-elaborate.

Accountancy, page 31

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□ One more rate rise may be needed □ PosTel flexes its muscles □ Taxing problem for the Recs over Grid flotation

## Hiking towards the peak

THE idea that interest rates may be close to peaking, at least for the next year or two, at their present rate of around 7 per cent may seem absurdly optimistic to hardened veterans of the wars against inflation in the 1970s and 1980s. But yesterday's *Inflation Report* from the Bank of England was quite consistent with this rosy picture, even if it did suggest that at least one further interest hike would be necessary, presumably to 7.25 per cent.

To take the bad news first — interest rates will have to rise at least one more time, if only to break the confounded "asymmetry" in the Bank's inflation forecasts. The Bank keeps stressing that the risk of inflation exceeding its 2.5 per cent central projection is greater than the chances of it undershooting. And even though this "asymmetry" is now said to be less than it was three months ago, we cannot expect Eddie George to be satisfied until he can put his hand on his heart and say that the risks are evenly balanced or, better still, skewed towards the downside.

The good news is that one more rise in interest rates — presumably of half a point, since anything less would seem indecisive while anything greater would smack of panic — might be enough to achieve this happy result. The *Inflation Report* sug-

gests several reasons for such optimism. First, there is the slowdown in the economy. GDP growth decelerated from over 4 per cent in the first half of last year to only 3 per cent in the second half. Second, there is the evidence of history. While 7 per cent may seem a low interest rate by the standards of the 1970s and 1980s, it is worth noting that Bank Rate never once went above 7 per cent from 1945 until the devaluation crisis of 1967 — and never exceeded 8 per cent until 1972. This is no mere historical curiosity. The fact is that the 2 to 3 per cent inflation the Bank is aiming for is incompatible with interest rates much above 7 per cent. If interest rates stay much above 7 per cent for long, this can only be because the Bank has failed in its effort to achieve permanently low inflation.

Third, there is a technical quirk in the inflation target itself. The Bank's central projection for inflation excluding mortgage interest (known as RPIX) is "just under 2.5 per cent" at the end of 1996. This may seem disconcertingly close to the top of the effective target range, which is

now 1 to 2.5 per cent. However, the Bank has always favoured another measure of inflation — "RPIY", which excludes indirect taxes, as well as mortgage interest. The RPIY projection for late 1996 is only 2 per cent. With the Chancellor due to announce a new inflation target to go beyond the general election some time this year, the chances are that attention will (quite rightly) be refocused from RPIX on to RPIY. This overdue shift would make it clearer than ever that Britain is well on course to realising Mr George's dream of a virtually non-inflationary economy.

### One law for the powerful

POSTEL's letter to the regional electricity companies could hardly be more pompously polite: "We have an interest in improving the absolute level of profitability and success of all British industry... potentially supportive long-term investor... not intimating any dissatisfaction with management." But the



institutional heavy mob is clearly on the march. PosTel has already joined others to demand that Northern Electric end the 15 per cent limit on shareholdings that has proved so tiresome for Trafalgar House. Now it wants the other 11 to follow suit, to save time and trouble for anyone who wants to take them over too.

According to PosTel, allowing these limits to continue would be "a distortion of the market". This little piece of political correctness is straight out of the little red book of economic "theories" commissioned by Wall Street. In those terms, it is indisputable. But these "theories" presume perfect financial markets based on perfect information and disinterested investors. This lies

some way from reality. The 15 per cent rule would be a distortion if it could not be removed at shareholders' behest. In the case of the Recs, a waiver merely requires 75 per cent of votes cast. In other words, a bidder cannot simply buy 29.9 per cent in the market and rely on enough institutions accepting an offer to get to 50 per cent. A bid has to win general support.

A 75 per cent threshold is likely to require a higher bid, which is not necessarily, as PosTel would have it, "against the interests of shareholders as a whole". There are twelve Recs. Institutional investors see them as largely homogeneous. A high bid price would make a good precedent but even a modest premium would be welcome, since proceeds could be reinvested in other Recs. The 75 per cent redresses this oddity and pushes up the required bid premium.

The interests of shareholders are not identical. A 75 per cent hurdle gives some say to private investors, who are normally impotent. The usual 50 per cent allows institutions and bidders to fix things to suit themselves

and ignore private investors. Rec boards should ponder the true effect of PosTel's demand and then politely refuse it.

### Trouble on the starting Grid

REPORTS of the death of the National Grid flotation are highly premature and likely to cause unnecessary suffering among those millions of private shareholders who are looking forward to something for nothing this summer.

At least one of the regional electricity companies is creeping round the City making the poor analysts' flesh creep with suggestions that the various parties are so much at loggerheads that they will never reach agreement in time for the expected float in June. This would deprive the City of a fat wage packet and, more to the point, send share prices in the electricity sector plummeting like meteors.

Three others — and fingers have been pointed at Yorkshire, Eastern and Southern, here — are proving excessively obdurate

over the amount that will need to be paid out to the customers to keep them sweet.

Bargaining between the industry and the massed ranks of the Treasury/DTI/Inland Revenue is hard, but there is every expectation that the issues should finally be resolved. The customers' hand-outs should not prove a sticking point — the industry can easily afford the £460 million that a £20-a-household payment would cost.

The problem is over tax, which the industry is keen to minimise on the sale, and the position of the tax-exempt funds that receive the shares. Anyone who has ever had to argue with the Revenue, which holds the whip hand and will, in the end, rule on whatever scheme is proposed, will extend to the industry every sympathy.

### War losses

JAPAN overtook America to be top official aid donor in 1993-94, according to the OECD's development assistance committee, but only because American aid fell faster than Japan's. Emergencies and peacekeeping, the product of civil wars, took the money that should have been aiding development. France, giving at double the average rate, alone realises that aid is a good investment for its own firms.

## Writedowns leave Amstrad with a profit of £25,000

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EXPENSIVE writedowns on a wide range of electronic items left Alan Sugar's Amstrad barely scraping into a profit in the first six months of the financial year, and provided further indications of grim Christmas trading in the high street.

Amstrad made just £25,000 at the pre-tax level in the six months to December 31, down from £1.75 million. An operating loss of £8.35 million from continuing operations came almost entirely from the consumer electronics business, once the core of the group, but

increasingly less important. There were £5.3 million writedowns on inventories at the end of December. But acquisitions made by the group, such as Viglen, the computer concern, bought last year, contributed £5.62 million of profit. Amstrad's £136 million cash pile, little changed despite an initial £30 million paid for Viglen, contributed another £2.75 million.

Amstrad is maintaining its 1p interim, despite losses per share of 0.2p, against profits of 1p. David Rogers, the chief executive, said reorganisation

was in progress at the consumer electronics side. "The short-term steps to stop the bleeding and get tight control are under way."

The problem had been falling sales and further pressure on margins in an attempt to stimulate business. The main downturn was in computers and satellite dishes in Britain and Germany. Within consumer electronics, said Mr Sugar, the chairman, "long-term success depends on the work we still have to do in the new product area."

Mr Sugar reassured shareholders that no sharp downturn was expected in the second half and no significant losses at the financial year-end. Traditionally for Amstrad, the first half has been the most important, because it contains figures for the Christmas sales season.

Mr Sugar said: "The nature of Amstrad's business has however changed to such an extent that seasonal factors are not as significant, and as such I feel that the half-year position should be maintained in the second half."

The news sparked some advance in Amstrad's shares, which rose throughout the day to end 8p higher at 141p. Mr Sugar accepted that the group's cash pile left it "all dressed up with nowhere to go — not what shareholders in public companies want." Further acquisitions were a possibility, therefore.

But Amstrad, which now sells its computers and faxes direct to the public, sees no prospect for immediate recovery in the high street. The market for consumer electronics remained "especially difficult," especially for mature products such as video and audio equipment, Mr Sugar said.



Alan Sugar is holding the interim despite falling sales

Times, page 28

## UK workers fare well in pay survey

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE take-home pay of British production workers is among the highest in Europe, according to a study by the Department of Employment.

Adjusted for Britain's low living costs, unmarried production workers in the UK are the best-off in Europe, the study found. Married workers in former West Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg fared better than their British counterparts thanks to higher social benefits, but elsewhere in Europe, production workers were not able to enjoy comparable living standards.

However, the findings, based on figures for the years 1990 to 1993 collected by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, show that production workers in Australia, Canada, Japan and the US were better off than any in Europe.

According to the study, published in today's *Employment Gazette*, the high level of pay in the UK is mainly a reflection

of "the relatively low cost of living in the UK compared to other northern European countries." But the researchers add: "Even in a comparison based on market exchange rates, however, UK gross pay would still be higher than France and Spain, though still some way behind West Germany and The Netherlands." Relatively low income taxes also favour UK workers, they say.

According to the study, the average take-home pay of an unmarried British production worker in 1993 was £10,538. Only workers in Luxembourg, earning on average £11,459, did better. A typical single German worker averaged £9,713, while his French counterpart made £8,036.

A typical two-child family with one production worker earner in Britain had a net income of £11,909. That compared with £12,034 in West Germany, £9,551 in France, and £15,412 in Luxembourg.

## Tarmac and BP chiefs to join Bank

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, and David Simon, chief executive of British Petroleum, were yesterday appointed directors of the Bank of England by the Government. They will hold office for four years from March 1. It was also revealed that Sir David Lees and Sir Colin Southgate will be reappointed for four years but that Sir Martin Jacobson and Sir Colin Corness will step down on February 28.

Mr Simon, 55, has just steered BP through a difficult patch after a fall in oil prices and soaring debts necessitated large cuts at the company. Mr Simms nursed Tarmac, the builder and contractor, through the recession and was instrumental in settling the dispute between Eurotunnel, builder and operator of the Channel Tunnel rail link, and its contractors, of which Tarmac was one.

## SG Warburg replaces its defecting financiers

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TWO key corporate financiers who defected from SG Warburg to Morgan Grenfell this week have been hurriedly replaced with one of their bosses, David Hobley, a long-time Warburg

employee. Mr Hobley will now have responsibility for Warburg's equity capital markets operation, which had been run by Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs.

Mr Thompson and Mr Cohrs are joining the new investment banking operation being set up by Morgan

Grenfell and its parent, Deutsche Bank, in London. The two leaving Warburg have unusually short notice periods to work out. Mr Thompson was on three months' notice, and Mr Cohrs on just one month.

A Warburg spokesman said that Mr Hobley had worked closely with the

equity capital market group in the past on large equity issuing mandates.

Warburg's shares tumbled on news of the pair's departure. Yesterday, they closed down 12p at 736p. The bank's independence has been uncertain since the failure of merger talks with Morgan Stanley late last year.

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## Big buyer stalks Amstrad shares after profit slide

**WHILE** Amstrad, Alan Sugar's consumer electronics group, was unveiling half-year figures to the City, a large buyer was stalking the shares in the derivatives market.

Brokers claim his presence was largely responsible for yesterday's 8¢ rise in the share price to 14½ at almost 2.5 million shares changed hands. But on the traded options market turnover was a lot higher, with attention directed at the June 150 series, where 19,350 contracts were recorded alone, equivalent to 3.87 million shares. Traders said NatWest Securities, the broker, was bidding in the market place for up to 25,000 contracts, which in this case was equivalent to 5 million shares. Normally one contract is equal to 1,000 shares.

NatWest was only able to complete some of its business before the rest of the market was alerted. Whispers began circulating that NatWest was acting for Cazenove. But what Cazenove's interest in the shares could be remained unclear. It is unlikely to have been impressed with Amstrad's interim figures, which showed a further deterioration in pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to just £25,000.

The rest of the equity market marked time for most of the day. The FT-SE 100 index closed a 0.2 down at 3,072.5, having been 12 points off earlier in the day. Turnover was 528 million shares.

The inflation report from the Bank of England was seen as mildly disappointing. Investors also expressed concern about another lacklustre performance from the pound. But the real focus of attention will be today's trade figures.

Meanwhile, Edmond Warner at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is telling clients to buy equities. He expects the market to "burst up" out of its trading range soon, and says it could prove costly for those investors who miss the boat.

There was a further flurry of speculative activity in Northern Electric, currently the target of an unwanted bid from Trafalgar House, a 2p lighter at 66½p. The Northern share price climbed 12p to 97½p as Swiss Bank Corporation, an adviser to Trafalgar House, continued adding to its holding. According to Northern, it now speaks for 5.9 million shares, or 5.14 per cent. Swiss Bank says it holds the shares in its role as a

market-maker. Northern continues to urge shareholders to reject the bid, claiming that Trafalgar is trying to buy the company on the cheap. Northern says the terms do not reflect the benefits of its stake in the National Grid, or any special dividends from the Grid in the run-up to its stock market flotation.

The Department of Trade

chain, jumped 2½p to 30p in heavy trading which saw more than 10 million shares change hands. The company said it knew of no reason for the rise. But stories circulating within the Square Mile suggest that Rewe, the German retailer and the company's biggest shareholder, has grown disenchanted with the way the company is being run.

third-quarter figures today. Profits downgrading by Warburg's sale line of shares by UBS. One damage by his rivals

and might be looking to bid for the company. Only last week Budgens announced plans to axe its chain of Penny Market stores, a concept which Rewe is said to have had a part in introducing. Five of the stores were sold to Lidl, a rival German retailer.

The takeover spotlight seems to have shifted from SG Warburg for the time being as the price slipped 12p to 736p.

**MOVE HIGHER IN TRADING**

FT all-share index (rebased)

Month	Index Value
Sep	24
Oct	30
Nov	28
Dec	29
Jan	28
Feb	30

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES	
WHEAT (June £/q)	BARLEY (June £/q)
Mar _____ 106.90	Mar _____ 102.75

Mar	108.90	Mar	102.75
May	110.35	May	104.00
Jul	111.70	Sep	97.75
Sep	98.50	Nov	99.20
Nov	99.85	Jan	100.85
Volume: 241		Volume: 12	

POTATO (£/q)	Open	Close
Apr	324.0	298.3
May	324.0	325.5

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Volume									
<b>RUBBER (No 1 RSS C# p/lb)</b> Mar 122.75-123.25																					
<b>BITUMEN (GN) Ltd \$10/pb</b>																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Close</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>1995</td> <td>2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>1995</td> <td>2008</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>													High	Low	Close	2000	1995	2008	2000	1995	2008
High	Low	Close																			
2000	1995	2008																			
2000	1995	2008																			

Mar 95	2045	2010	2035
Apr 95	3027	2000	2027
Jul 95	1780	1730	1765
Vol: 557 lots		Open Interest: 3331	
Index 1965 +8			
<b>METAL EXCHANGE</b>		<b>Rudolf Wolff</b>	
15.0	3entz 2806.0-2807.0	Vol: 1648530	
.00	570.00-570.30	371525	

100.0	570.0-570.0	317303
50.0	1020.0-1020.0	868700
50.0	5370.0-5375.0	32325
17.0	1899.0-1900.0	1422500
10.0	8100.0-8110.0	126024

Speculators appear to be growing tired of waiting for fresh developments after the breakdown in merger talks between Warburg and Morgan Stanley. Now the focus of attention has moved to Schrodgers, which stood out with a rise of 40p to £15.23.

The shock waves from the inquiry initiated by the Office of Fair Trading into the differential in wholesale beer prices continued to be felt. Sellers directed their attention at the regional brewers, with losses recorded in Greenalls, down to 15p at 41p, Greene King, 22p at 486p, Mansfield Brewery, 5p at 239p, Marston Thompson, 12p at 284p, Morland, 5p at 453p, Vaux Group, 9p at 216p and Wolverhampton & Dudley, 15p at 493p. None of

**Dudley** 15p at 487p. News of the inquiry, announced on Tuesday, also hit the public retailers. Having already forced Century Inns to postpone its stock market flotation, it also left **JD Wetherspoon** 11p off at 461p and **Boddington** 4p easier at 244p.

**Lloyds Abbey Life**, which is 63 per cent owned by **Lloyds Bank** and was the subject of intense bid speculation recently, finished 6p lower at 358p after reporting full-year gain

ures at the bottom end of City expectations. Pre-tax profits dipped 2 per cent to £315.6 million after a sharp rise in provisions from £20.5 million to £59.6 million to cover possible payouts to personal pen-

stable payouts to personal pension customers. **Lloyds Bank**, unveiling interim figures tomorrow, firmed 5p to 550p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts came in for an early bout of profit-taking after Tuesday's useful gains. But selling pressure was easily contained and the Bank of England managed to exhaust supplies of the latest issue of floating rate stock.

**Treasury 1999.**

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits before closing

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dipped £1/32 to 96<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent eased £<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> to 97<sup>19</sup>/<sub>32</sub>.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares rose in morning trading on Wall Street as investors awaited the outcome of the auction of \$12 billion in ten-year notes. Hi-tech shares were strong. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.79 points higher at 3,950.18.

LONDON FINA	
FT-SE 100	Period
Previous open interest: 64618	Mar 95 ..
	Jun 95 ..

<b>FT-SE 250</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open interest: 4044	Jun 95 ..
<b>Three Month Sterling</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open interest: 44983	Jun 95 ..
	Sep 95 ..
<b>Three Mth Eurodollar</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open interest: 2437	Jun 95 ..
<b>Three Mth Euro DM</b>	Mar 95 ..

<b>Three Mth Euro DM</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open Interest: 769244	Jun 95 ..
<b>Long Gilt</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open Interest: 94625	Jun 95 ..
<b>Japanese Govmt Bond</b>	Mar 95 ..
	Jun 95 ..
<b>German Gov Bd Bund</b>	Mar 95 ..
Previous open Interest: 219908	Jun 95 ..

Previous open interest: 279908	Jun 95 ...
<b>Three month ECU</b>	Mar 95 ...
Previous open interest: 24430	Jun 95 ...
<b>Euro Swiss Franc</b>	Mar 95 ...
Previous open interest: 44123	Jun 95 ...
<b>Italian Govt Bond</b>	Mar 95 ...
Previous open interest: 56730	Jun 95 ...

MONEY	
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 1/4	Financial
Discount Market Loans: O'night high:	
Treasury Bills (Dis:Buy): 2 mth 6 1/4; 3 mth	
Prime Bank Bills (Dis:):	1 mth 2 1/4
	6 1/4-6 1/2

**Sterling Money Rates:** 6½-6¾  
**Interbank:** 6½-6¾  
**Overnight:** open 6¼, close 7½  
**Local Authority Depos:** 6½  
**Sterling CDs:** 6½-6¾  
**Dollar CDs:** 6.04-6.01  
**Building Society CDs:** 6½-6¾  
**ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Expon Finan**  
**Debt: 100% Ad**

Feb 26, 1993 to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III:  
1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.624%.

EUROPEAN MONETARY UNIT		
Currency	7 day	1
Dollar:	6-52	
Deutschmark:	4 <sup>th</sup> m <sup>th</sup> 19	4

Deutschmark:	4=2 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	4
Deutsche Mark:	5=2 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	4
French Franc:	5=2 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	4
Swiss Franc:	3=3	2
Yen:	2=2	2

**SOLD BY THE TON**

Bullion: Open \$374.30-\$374.70	Close \$374.30
1,000 oz. 999.9999	100 oz. 999.9999

Low: \$374.10-\$374.60 AM: \$374  
Kruggerand: \$374.25-\$376.25 (E240.75-\$42.25)  
Platinum: \$409.00 (E263.45) Silver: \$4.6

**STERLING SPOT**

Mkt Rates for Feb 8	Range
Amsterdam.....	2.6629-2.6781
Brussels.....	48.87-49.18
Copenhagen.....	9.3480-9.4040
Dublin.....	1.0042-1.0078
Frankfurt.....	2.3760-2.3894
Lisbon.....	244.82-246.56
Madrid.....	204.50-205.93
Milan.....	2506.20-2519.90

Milan	2506-20-2519.90
Montréal	2.1634-2.1764
New York	1.5500-1.5972
Oslo	10.3970-10.4520
Paris	8.2190-8.2700
Stockholm	11.5730-11.6330
Tokyo	153.45-154.63
Vienna	16.75-16.82
Zurich	2.0102-2.0232

Source: Excel



## MAJOR INDICES

**New York (midday):**  
Dow Jones INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE 3950.18 (+12.79)  
S&P Composite STOCKS 482.49 (+1.68)

**Tokyo:**  
Nikkei Average ..... 18290.25 (-210.30)



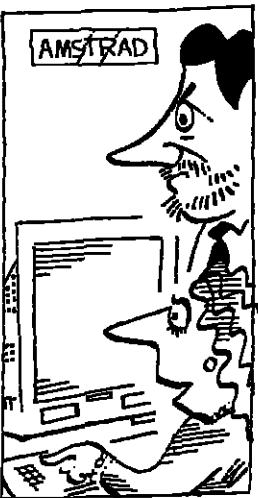
# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Too blue for women

WHEN market traders talk of "red" and "blue", they invariably speak of share prices. But there is another hue to "blue", and it concerns language. It is the colour that too many institutions are offering as their excuse for not employing more women in capital markets. Gary Ashworth, chief executive of Abacus Recruitment, the specialist consultancy, says there is a growing demand for qualified front office professionals. However, since markets remain male dominated, Ashworth is meeting discrimination when he tries to place women. "Capital markets are quite a rough market, where the language can get a little blue, and there is a perception that women will not be able to tolerate this", he concedes. One woman who has made it to the top says brokers and traders mix in a "all-chaps-together" fashion, that clients like talking to women salespersons, and that as a woman, corporate finance departments and bond markets "are the nicest areas" in which to work. Ashworth says the all-male attitude is ridiculous. "Women can make a fantastic contribution to this market. We have a number of highly qualified women on our books who could do the job standing on their heads", he says. But then, as a trader might retort, "preferably not".

## Just the job

IF Sir Iain Vallance, of BT, wants to do penance for his remark about junior doctors, then there is a job application which he might consider. The London Ambulance Service is advertising for a chairman. The post calls for a person "with a high degree of financial awareness, with experience of living or working in the London area". The chairman would be expected to work a dedicated two/three-days a week, at least, and might expect a salary of about £19,000 annually.



"Whatever I do, it still says 25,000"

## Soured Sugar

ALAN ("I never smile for the cameras") Sugar has a reputation for not liking the City, and of not being too keen to hand information to it. But yesterday the man surpassed himself. He was asked at the interim press conference if he had spoken with Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, since Amstrad had taken to selling computers direct to the public and cutting out the likes of Dixons. "He wished me a happy birthday." And when was that? "On my birthday," said Sugar, stone-faced. Curiously, he was not even telling the truth. Amstrad launched its Direct business in November, and Sugar, born on March 24, has not had a birthday since.

FRED FINN, the world's most travelled executive, was last night honoured at a reception at the Royal Over-Seas League. The flying Finn is about to notch up his 11 millionth mile when he jets off to Africa with Kenya Airways.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH



# Investment is the essential missing piece in the jigsaw

The proximity of an election has shackled Clarke and George to a short time-scale

These are frustrating times for Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George. Every time they put up interest rates, emphasising their determination to avoid another British boom and bust, they are swamped in bitter criticism from industry. And yet it is industry, so damaged by the vicious cycles of the past, which pleads above everything else for steady, predictable macro-economic policy.

The trouble is that Chancellor and Governor are giving every impression of playing a long game, but are shackled to a short time-scale because of the proximity of the next election. Industry just does not believe the self-imposed austerity will last.

Mr Clarke is virtually tied in by his party to delivering pre-election tax cuts and, sadly reminiscent of Lawson election-winning coups of the past, they will come at completely the wrong stage in the economic cycle.

Britain's history of economic management has been muddled by political expediency for so very long that no amount of sensible rhetoric from Mr Clarke and Mr George will erase industry's fears. These deeply held suspicions are one of the crucial, if unquantifiable, reasons why business is not investing more.

Investment is the one big piece of the economic jigsaw yet to be slotted into place. Like the Government, uncomfortable with healthy growth and rapidly falling unemployment because of the inflation spectre of the past, companies cannot break out of their defensive view of economic conditions.

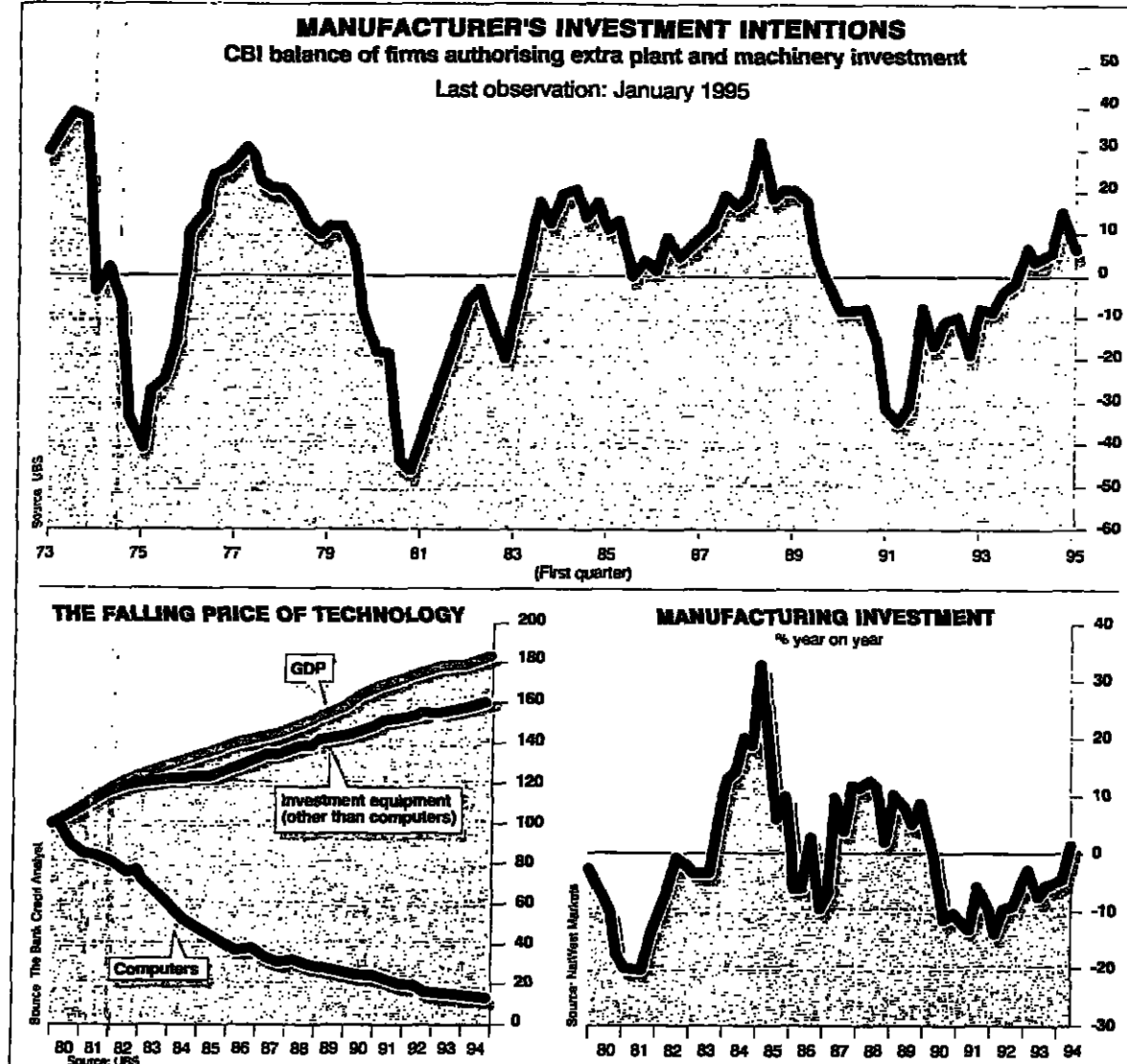
The CBI's January industrial trends survey, the longest run and most reliable source for predicting investment, showed that companies' investment intentions had weakened since October despite a greater number worrying about capacity constraints and intending to raise prices.

Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest Markets commented: "It is undoubtedly disappointing that companies, faced with emerging capacity constraints, appear to prefer to raise prices to choke off demand to investing in new capacity to supply that demand." Even after the worrying signal from the CBI, he and others remain optimistic that investment will take off this year. There are many bull points.

British companies have built up a huge financial surplus since the recession. Profits are healthy. They have the money to spend. Availability of borrowing is no problem at all. David Mackie of JP Morgan noted that spreads in the syndicated loan market are currently wafer thin, suggesting that banks are falling over themselves to lend.

Despite serious misgivings about the future of demand which showed up in the CBI survey, the positive experience of last year, at least for exporters, and the prospect of further strengthening in export markets ought to outweigh the sluggishness of the domestic market.

The CBI survey pointed to emerging capacity constraints, suggesting that investment must be about to increase. Bill Martin of UBS believes that capacity usage is now equal to the level



of normal British booms, if not the Lawson one.

There is an argument that the lagged investment response to recovery is entirely typical. It took until 1985 and 1986 before investment gathered pace after the early 1980s recession, so companies are not that late this time.

Against these plus points are some considerable minus ones. Apart from lack of trust in Britain's economic managers, there is the disincentive of high long-term interest rates after the bond market crash of 1994.

The British phenomenon of companies demanding high real rates of return also persists. A survey by the CBI last year showed that a third of British manufacturers using formal rates of return to assess capital investment are prepared to accept an annual return of 11 per cent or less because of low inflation. But two firms in five still want returns of more than 20 per cent and are still using short two to three-year payback periods.

These points, negative and positive, all constitute traditional analysis of Britain's investment question. But they still look at investment in a narrow way. Most dramatically, official figures concentrate on manufacturing despite the fact that services account for more than two thirds of the economy. The official figures also concentrate largely on physical plant such as buildings and machinery. Increasingly however, companies are competing in a world in which intangibles such as skills, technology, marketing, the structure of supply chains, customer service, the value of relative brands, market positioning, all provide the most potential for added value and productivity gains.

Official investment figures include none of these. John Key of London Economics notes that in the pharmaceutical industry, for example, investment in research and development is

counted as a current expense. But this is the key component to the profit streams of the future. A new software package on the PC of a City economist, finance officer or graphic designer may raise productivity twofold.

Nor do investment figures take so-called human capital into account. Yet it is now common wisdom that the quality of employees and their pooled skills are more and more important.

So is any of this being taken on board by British companies? Are they investing in a different, more innovative way which is not picked up in the statistics?

One area in which the official numbers may be understating both the actual value of investment going on, and its impact on productivity, is information technology. Dr Walter Eltis, chief economic adviser to Michael Heseltine, noted in a recent article, in the context of the US, that the price index for computers and information technology (IT) related equipment has fallen 80 per cent since 1980 while the prices of other capital goods has risen 60 per cent. Dr Eltis argues that there has been a worldwide boost in profits from a pervasive use of relatively cheap IT. He also notes that these shorter-lasting assets are more immune than traditional capital stock to the sharp rise in real interest rates in the 1980s and 1990s.

A more general shift towards "intangible investments" shows up in a survey of more than 600 firms by Paul Ceroski and Paul Gregg for the National Institute Economic Review in 1993. The survey explored how companies had coped in recession and some interesting phenomena.

Many companies had cancelled investment plans in plant and machinery and buildings, a wholly traditional British response to recession. But

many had brought forward investment in research and development, new product or process innovations and training. For example, 123 firms brought forward R&D investment and 217 brought forward product innovations.

These results contain the seeds of something positive, but much else about British corporate behaviour is worrying. Another form of investment not accounted for by official statistics is restructuring to enhance productivity. Gary Hamel and C.K. Prahalad describe this succinctly in their book *Competing for the Future*: "Masquerading under names such as refocusing, delayering, decluttering, right-sizing (one is tempted to ask why the 'right' size is always smaller), restructuring always has the same result: fewer employees."

The Inland Revenue's intention to lose 12,000 jobs over the next seven years is a restructuring investment. The "delayering" of management in British Telecom has been an extremely expensive investment in future efficiency.

Short-termism has always been associated with British companies cancelling long-term investment because of boom and bust. But perhaps the ultimate short-termism is the one-way management cult of downsizing, a wonderfully obvious way of boosting productivity swiftly.

Here lies the problem. Such defensive investment, based entirely on the totem of the bottom line, has a practical limit. Even modern technology needs a minimum number of human beings to run it and make the right decisions. Cost cutting alone threatens to create anaemic companies without the resources to develop. In an increasingly competitive world economy, positive investment in new products, flexible systems and human talent is what will win new markets.

# Fiat accelerates out of trouble as Italy spins

Political turmoil is not damaging industry, Colin Narbrough reports

Stable government still eludes Italy after the eight-month rule of Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon turned prime minister. But to judge by the performance of Fiat, Italy's leading industrial company, instability does not necessarily impair corporate recovery.

In the run up to the elections that brought Signor Berlusconi and his colourful coalition to power last year, industry, fearing the effects of *tangentopoli* (bribeville), exposing corruption at the highest government and corporate levels, campaigned hard to demonstrate that Italy was still working, and working well. The steady stream of senior executives paraded before the corruption-hunting magistrates could in many economies be expected to damage the corporate sector. Not so, it seems, in Italy.

Lamberto Dini, the former director-general of the Italian central bank, who has taken over the premiership, promises hardly more than a fleeting moment of political peace.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, Italian industry has not been idle. The lira's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism, like the exit of the pound, was a huge help to exporters. Since then the lira has fallen to record lows.

So far the inflation effect of the weak currency has been modest. Goods prices have started to pick up, especially at the producer level, which will ultimately force the central bank to tighten the monetary reins again. However, for the first half of this year, the outlook is for the lira to hold steady after depreciation of 5 per cent in the second half of last year.

Italian export volumes rose substantially faster than those in Britain, its fellow devaluer, and only a third of the devaluation was reflected in lower Italian export prices. The state of the lira will create problems for Italy if its politicians want to pursue the goal of a single currency. But the weak currency has been very good for exporters.

In his annual letter to shareholders, Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of

Fiat, highlighted the importance of the "favourable trend in exchange rates" in overcoming Italian industry's long period of steadily declining competitiveness. "It is against this background, where signs of improvement prevailed over the continuing causes of uncertainty, that the performance of Fiat in 1994 must be evaluated," he said.

Signor Agnelli acknowledged that the improved international economic climate had helped Fiat to a 11,750 billion pre-tax profit last year. In 1993, his family-controlled empire suffered a loss of 11,384 billion, the worst in the group's history of nearly 100 years.

Although the Italian economy grew by 2.4 per cent last year, Fiat's domestic market has not contributed so much to the company's spectacular turn round. The Italian car market, which slumped 20.4 per cent in 1993, slipped a further 2.7 per cent last year. However, the company's automotive sales to Britain surged 33 per cent. Despite general economic recovery,

Fiat noted that growth rates in its principal markets last year remained "rather modest".

Although cars account for half of Fiat's 165,500 billion turnover, it is a broadly based industrial group engaged in aviation, engineering and a host of other sectors. That makes it a useful bellwether of Italy's industrial vitality.

Signor Agnelli, whose group employs a quarter of a million people, has appealed for greater labour market flexibility and continued rigorous wage restraint to keep Italy competitive. Signor Dini would doubtless support his call, but he has his own ambitious programme for reform of the state pension scheme, a supplementary budget to keep the public deficit on target, electoral reform and measures to ensure equal media access for political parties. No mean ambition for a caretaker prime minister.

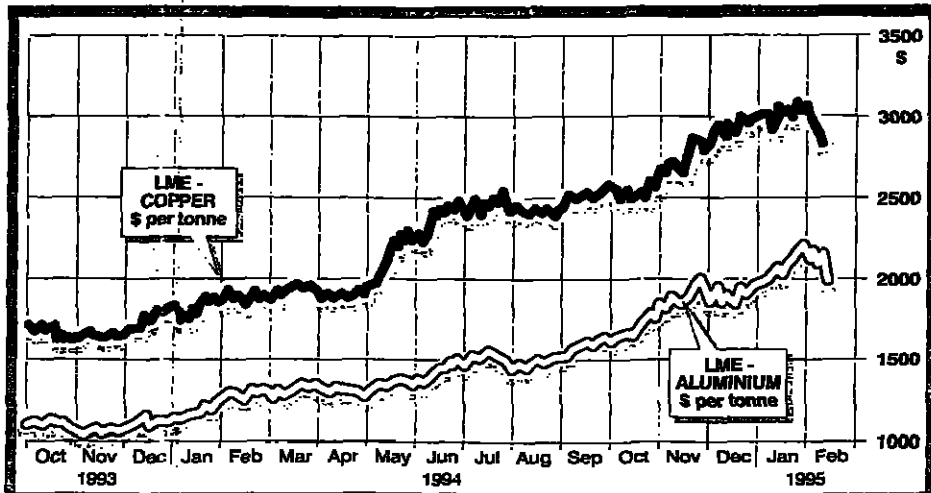
Italian industrialists too want public sector finances brought under control and greater political stability. But they have been busy making sure that their corporate futures will ultimately lie in their own hands.



Silvio Berlusconi at work before his downfall

American hedge funds are the villains of a crashing market, says Carl Mortished

# Heavy metal lands on London traders' heads



13 per cent from its peak in January and Nick Moore, a metals analyst, is predicting an overall slump of 20-30 per cent.

The villains of the year-long rally and sudden decline are hedge funds, which initially came to the rescue of the commodities market towards the end of 1993, buying futures contracts in metals as well as

soft commodities like cocoa. American investment banks such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have created investment vehicles to track the commodities market and have courted pension funds, seeking to draw them into the commodity arena.

"They started investing about a year ago. At the time equities and bonds were look-

ing expensive," explained Neil Buxton, research consultant for Lehmann Bros, the investment bank and LME trader. "At the same time base metal prices were at all-time lows. The funds saw that the share prices of mining stocks such as Alcan and RTZ had risen significantly but the prices of the underlying commodities had underperformed. Seeing

the equity market outperforming and the underlying market underperforming, they switched assets from one to the other."

Most of the buying has been by American funds which last year noted a strong pick-up in US economic growth and logically predicted greater demand for metals from the automobile, construction and packaging sectors. Then weak American vehicle sales figures in January and recent interest rate rises set the scene for a slowdown in US growth. The hedge funds once again switched horses, leaping from commodities into bonds.

The supply side of the equation is more worrying. In spite of the steady increase in demand, metal stocks remain ample. Only copper stocks have been run down, and in any case, they will increase with a doubling of production over the next two years at the Escondido mine in Chile. Aluminium could also be in for trouble, Mr Moore points out. Serious overproduction,

exacerbated by Russian dumping, finally persuaded producer countries to rein back. They agreed last summer to reduce production by about 900,000 tonnes. As a consequence, LME aluminium stocks have fallen by 1 million tonnes to 1.6 million tonnes since last June.

"The next stage will be bringing that capacity back on stream," Mr Moore predicted. The big mining companies are philosophical about the investor activity in the futures market, preferring to rely on

what they see as long-term growth in consumption. World demand for base metals is expected to grow at 2.5 to 3 per cent, more or less in line with the global economy, with sluggish growth in the West offset by strong consumption in the growing Asian manufacturing economies.

But the mining and metals combines cannot easily rein back investments started in the recent bull market and they will be hoping for some equilibrium after a year on the roller-coaster.

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# Europe's chemical industry cheered by Rhône-Poulenc

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RHÔNE-POULENC has confirmed the end of the cyclical slump in the European chemical industry by announcing doubled profits, together with a 7.1 per cent improvement in sales during 1994, to Fr86.3 billion.

Starting the European chemicals reporting season, the French chemicals and pharmaceuticals group reported a strong upturn in demand for bulk and specialty chemicals. But the improvement was undermined by a continued mediocre performance from its health and pharmaceuticals side, which

accounts for around 70 per cent of group sales.

Overall, net income for 1994 was up 99.1 per cent at Fr1.92 billion. Jean-Marc Brue, deputy chairman, said 70 per cent of the financial improvement was a result of the economic recovery worldwide. The rest he ascribed to efficiency gains and restructuring.

Jean-René Fourtoul, chairman, acknowledged that the performance of the company, which was privatised in November 1993, remained unsatisfactory. But he believed recovery would continue in Rhône-Poulenc's main mar-

## Acceleration at Alexanders

By JON ASHWORTH

ALEXANDERS Holdings, Scotland's biggest Ford motor dealer, lifted pre-tax profits to £935,000 (£512,000) in the year to September 30. The company, which holds three Ford dealerships north of the border, saw sales climb to £110.8 million (£87.2 million) in a highly competitive market. Alexanders also has a sizeable contract hire fleet, operating 5,500 vehicles across the UK.

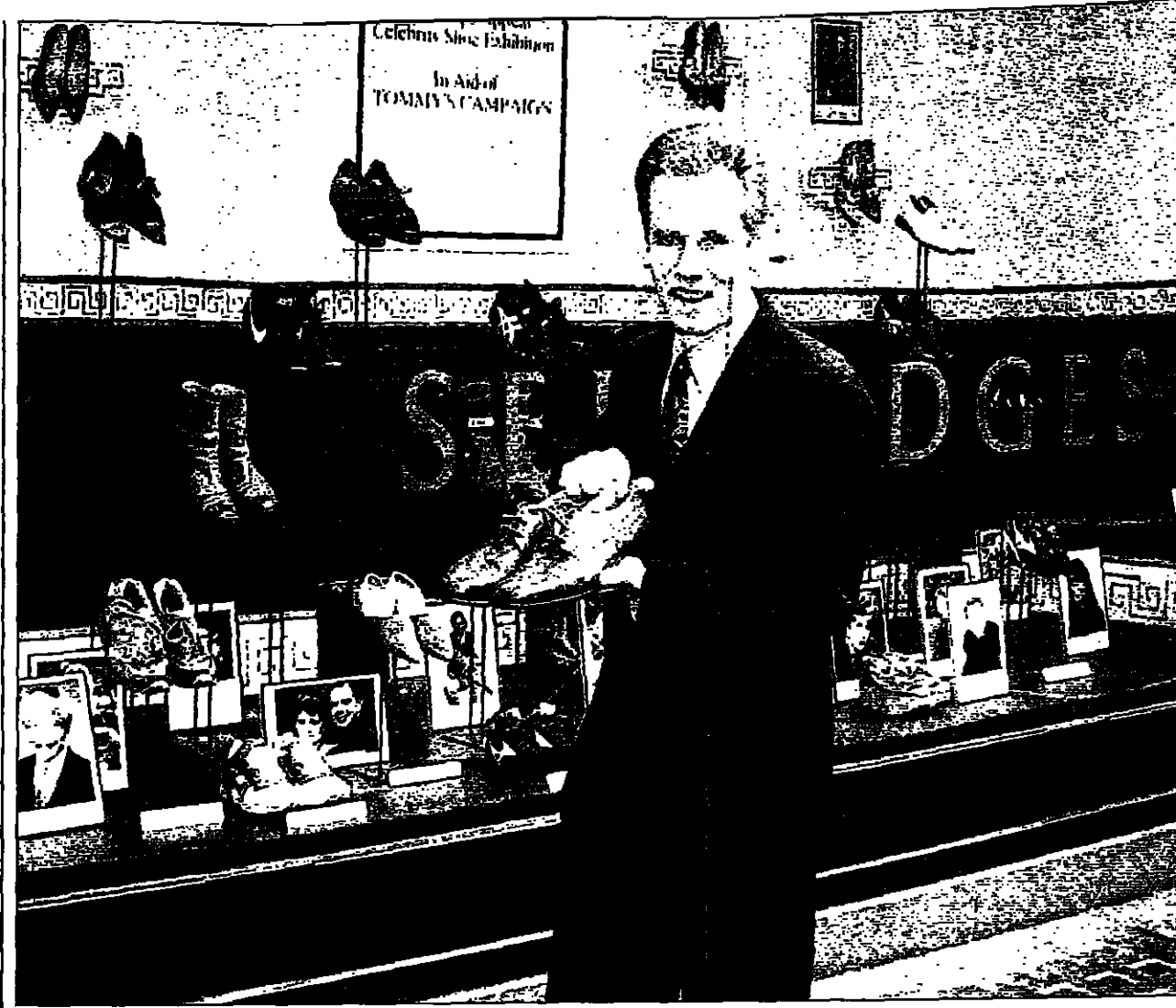
Roger Humm, vice-chairman and chief executive, said turnover had increased significantly on the back of a new business plan, which recognised the need to increase retail and fleet customers. The next phase is aimed at improving operating margins. Consultants have been engaged to help to improve standards of customer service.

The contract hire and leasing market continues to offer good opportunities for

growth. General market share is expected to grow after the acquisition, last October, of Metheringham Car Sales of Lincoln, which holds franchises for Nissan, Mazda and Jeep. Metheringham is now trading as Alexanders of Lincoln. The company spent £1.75 million on the acquisition, which fitted in with plans to expand further into England and extend its franchise range.

Mr Humm said: "Our business strategy and plan provides for steady improvements in return of capital employed and earnings per share. It seeks to create the base against which a strong dividend policy can be developed."

Earnings per share were 2.29p, compared with 1.25p last year. A final dividend of 0.7p per share (0.5p) makes a total of 1p (0.5p) per share for the year.



Stepping out: Stephen Smith, deputy managing director of British Shoe Corporation, outside Selfridge's in London at the launch of a celebrity footwear exhibition. Mr Smith, who is holding the shoes worn by Nelson Mandela during his imprisonment, is supporting a nationwide fund-raising campaign.

British Shoe is giving 10p for every pair of shoes sold in February at outlets

including Saxe, Hush Puppies and Freeman Hardy Willis as part of the First Steps Appeal, which aims to raise £500,000 for Tommy's Campaign, a charity funding research into prematurity, miscarriage and stillbirth. Last week Mr Smith handed over a cheque for £200,000 in anticipation of selling two million pairs of shoes this month.

The exhibition features the footwear of more than 50 celebrities ranging

from the Dalai Lama to Eric Cantona. It includes the Nikes worn by Andre Agassi when he won the US Open last September, Elizabeth Hurley's black suede platform shoes worn at the premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and Pavarotti's boots from the 1984 production of *Aida*.

The exhibition opens in Bristol on February 10, before moving to Glasgow and Belfast.

## Detonator plant to shut at ICI

ICI is shutting a detonator factory in Ardeer, Strathclyde, with the loss of 200 jobs by October. Some work will be relocated to the ICI explosivesRoburite, near Wigan, Greater Manchester. The company blamed the demise of the coal mining industry for a sharp fall in demand for explosives and detonators. Some 400 jobs at Ardeer will remain for employees making products for the vehicle and aerospace industries.

## Crystal glow

Darlington Crystal, the handmade crystal producer taken private in a management buyout last year, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.07 million (£538,000) in the year to end-December. Sales climbed 15 per cent to £10.5 million (£9.1 million).

## NWF jumps

NWF, the agricultural distribution company that recently broke off merger discussions with Carrs Milling Industries, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.1 million (£800,000) in the six months to end-November. Turnover climbed to £27 million (£22 million).

## Sykes sell-off

Andrew Sykes Group, the industrial services company, has conditionally agreed to sell Calorex Heat Pumps maker of swimming pool pumps, to a company formed by its managers for £1.725 million.

## Losses cut

Elbief, the Birmingham-based maker of photograph and handbag frames, clocks and mirrors, trimmed pre-tax losses from £138,000 to £29,000 in the six months to end-October. Turnover advanced to £2.3 million (£1.95 million). The loss per share was 0.2p (0.1p loss). There is no dividend (nil).

## National Express spreads its wings

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the coach operator, is buying Bournemouth International Airport for £7.23 million in an effort to establish itself as Britain's second largest airport operator behind BAA.

The airport is being sold by Bournemouth Borough Council and Dorset County Council, which want to attract private finance into the site to speed its development. National Express is also taking a

lease on 1,000 acres of surrounding land, which also contains an industrial estate. Bournemouth Airport runs regular scheduled services to Brussels, Paris and Dublin, as well as charter flights to Spain and the Mediterranean.

The runway is 1.8 kilometres and large enough to allow Boeing 737 aircraft to land. There is planning permission to extend it to 2.2 kilometres, which would give

access to Boeing 757s and 767s and allow the airport to offer flights to the east coast of America.

The airport currently employs 150 people and generated a £5 million turnover last year. The cost of providing security and customs services is high.

Last summer the two councils appointed KPMG, the accountancy firm, to advise on how to develop the site and


KPMG recommended it should be sold to the private sector. National Express already owns East Midlands Airport, which it bought in 1993, and is keen to develop its airport business to operate alongside its traditional coach services. In the first half of last year, East Midlands generated a profit of £1.5 million on an £8.4 million turnover.

Tempos, page 30

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## ACCOUNTANCY

## And the prize for best report...

The objective is to present a complex document in an understandable form, says Anthony Carey

The giant BP, with 34,500 employees, and Graseby, with just 1,500 staff, are both striving to be at the forefront of the technologies underlying their core businesses. By winning the large and small company sections, respectively, of the 1995 Stock Exchange and Chartered Accountants Annual Awards for Published Accounts, their position at the leading edge of current reporting practice is also recognised.

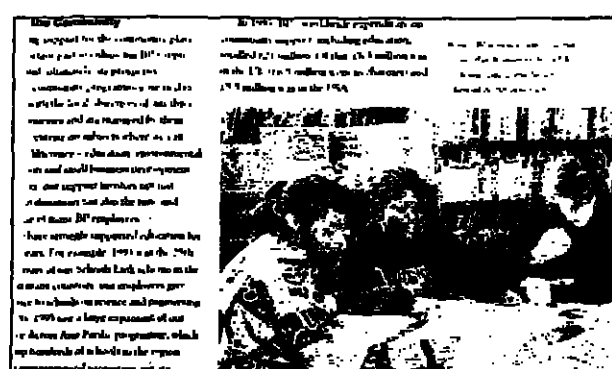
A couple of weeks ago, Sir Adrian Cadbury was shipwrecked on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. If he had just returned today to civilisation after being away for three to four years, he would be taken aback by the extent of changes to annual reports during his absence. New financial reporting standards have recast the face of the profit and loss account and heralded new cash-flow statements and statements of total recognised gains and losses.

Outside the accounts section, the publication of the Operating and Financial Review by the Accounting Standards Board has led to more informative business reviews

in many reports. The award-winning companies, and the many others that prepare prize-winning reports, have managed to take the above changes in their stride and to present a complex document in an understandable form, helping to explain the company's objectives, progress, prospects and management's stewardship over the company's resources.

Graseby opens its annual report by stating that it "pursues excellence in each of its four business areas: medical, product monitoring, environmental and technology. Committed to customer service and continuous improvement through total quality, the group operates in markets where expert knowledge, quality and partnership attract high margins and above average returns on net operating assets". Its strategic objectives are to develop and expand activities on a global basis; to achieve enhanced financial performance based on quality earnings and to continue to strengthen the balance sheet.

Although many companies include a summary of activities at the beginning of their annual report, far fewer follow



BP's report "stands as an example to other companies"



Graseby's report "clearly articulates their mission"

Graseby's lead and go beyond telling their readers what they do and clearly articulate their mission. Both BP and Graseby score well on corporate governance disclosures. Their reports contain good biographical information on their directors and each has an informative corporate governance statement. BP, for example, points out that it is unusual among UK-listed companies in having a majority of non-executive directors on its board. It also indicates that its board meets monthly and sets out the matters reserved to the full board and those dealt with by the various

board committees. In its notes to the accounts, the company went beyond current practice at the time its report was published and stated the exercise price at which new share options were granted to a director during the year and the average exercise price of all directors' options outstanding at the end of the year.

BP has an accounting policy note and a note in the accounts on financial instruments discussing, mainly in qualitative terms, how the company deals in them and accounts for them. This area, perhaps more than any other, will increasingly require the attention of the corporate sector generally and the standard-setters, in particular.

The substantial amount of five-yearly information made available by BP deserves mention. It extends beyond providing the group income and balance sheet statements to an analysis of cash flows and of capital expenditure and acquisitions, and stands as an example to other companies.

To remain at the leading edge, the preparers of annual reports must always strive to explain more fully than the previous year the operations and performance of the company in the context of its business environment.

The author is a member of the technical department of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

## Treading on toes in unification dance

THE accountancy bodies have started their strange dance of unification yet again. Only this time it will require just two of them to tango for the process to get properly underway. Those of us not directly involved could be excused for looking at the whole process somewhat wearily. That would be wrong.

The trouble is that the longer the accountancy bodies waste their efforts in trying to unify the profession's structure, the less time they are able to devote to the proper issue of ensuring that the country has an effective accountancy profession. And, with every permutation of matching this accounting body with that one, the greater the temptation for them all to go for short-term solutions.

The latest is the idea of putting the country's largest body, the English ICA, together with the CIMA, the management accounting body. The arithmetic is simple. The English ICA puts its 105,000 members, split 50:50 between those in practice and those in business, with the CIMA's membership of 35,000 in business and industry. This, like all previous attempts at mergers, makes sense on paper. And, like most piecemeal efforts at rationalising the nation's accounting bodies, it could, if successful, trigger other mergers in its wake.

The problem is whether it will be successful. Almost anyone can agree on basic principles. The detail is what causes problems. There is already a good head of steam behind the idea at council levels. But events during the fateful meeting of heads of the profession, where it was initially announced, are not as propitious. "Correct me if I'm wrong," Keith Woodley, English ICA deputy president, is reputed to have said to Tom Glancy, CIMA president, as he described part of the basis for a merger. And Glancy promptly did. Part of the difficulty of any possible merger is that the accounting bodies are having to compete hard with each other on every front. Their interests were once much more closely intertwined. And they still didn't manage to get together then. Now even two bodies such as the English ICA and CIMA are very different in attitude and objectives.

The arrival of the CIMA as part of the new body would mean a switch from the English ICA's current 50:50 balance of practice and business to a 50:80 ratio. At present, the English ICA keeps the balance relatively happy. Its business membership has tradi-

tionally felt undervalued and underrepresented. But the creation of a faculty organisation, the board for chartered accountants in business, BCAB, has eased that.

If the balance were to tilt towards the business members, things would undoubtedly change. At present, the English ICA's audit view prevails when it comes to allowing audit firms to sell consultancy and business services to clients. The CIMA takes the opposite view and thinks that auditors should be barred from selling associated services. That is the sort of fundamental difference of principle that exists.

Equally, the negotiators may find that the English ICA's long campaign to try to stop CIMA members from gaining the right to call themselves chartered management accountants may have reduced grassroots goodwill. There are also problems at secretariat level. Staff at the various bodies are not noted for embracing radical changes. In fact, the opposite, as they all sit in their generally agreeable headquarters buildings, is the case. This may have to change.

The English ICA has long had a substantial number of departments and support staff in a smallish block in Milton Keynes. This, with glass exterior and interiors and no air conditioning, was less agreeable. But it has now decided to relocate nearly all its staff.

All those from Milton Keynes and central London, other than those deemed important enough to stay in the heart of the City, will move to a new, yet to be built, much larger Milton Keynes block. Logically, if the merger goes through, the CIMA would give up its listed building in Portland Place and move to Milton Keynes. This is not the sort of prospect which spurs mergers on. Meanwhile, the competition among all six accounting bodies will continue, and should the CIMA/English ICA merger work, we will surely see the other smaller bodies then join in.

This should be something that the profession looks forward to. Sadly, such has been the acrimony over the failed Bishop report efforts to bring all six bodies together, that trust is in short supply. Once, people within the secretariats talked openly to each other. Now they play their own version of party politics where bluff and counter-bluff are more important than sharing strengths and weaknesses and trying to share solutions.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Song and joke carry the day

THERE was a fine brouhaha at the English ICA's council over the arcane details of "the terms of reference for the regulation review working party". This is not the sort of thing about which people get worked up. But the roly-poly Douglas Liambias started a haze running on "when is a press release not a press release?". The answer, it transpired, is "when it is a press briefing paper". Everything got out of hand and when

Chris Swinson, the bulwark of the working party, stood up to defend his position, the air was full of recriminations. Using the old music-hall advice of "you'll never go wrong with a song and a joke", he disarmed them all and the proposals were accepted.

## That's showbiz

LAST week saw much razzamatazz of the marketing sort at the Savoy Hotel as Colin

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sharman, KPMG senior partner, launched a leadership survey which showed, for example, that Richard Branson was a much admired chap. Will Carling, the England rugby captain, joined in to launch a leadership initiative with the firm. But all this could have blinded the audience to a simultaneous event. Across at the London Marriott hotel, Jim Butler, Sharman's predecessor as senior partner, was giving a talk to the profession-

al services marketing group's national conference. His title? "Professional services marketing — a critical assessment." To judge from what he said, he does not think much of it.

## Close shave

FACIAL fuzz has always been frowned upon in the profession, particularly in the old days. Proof of this comes from a framed document in the office of Gerry Acher, KPMG's

head of audit. In 1967, when he applied to the firm, he had a beard. He was sent a letter saying that he could have the job, if he had a shave. Acher, as the auditing jargon of today would have it, applied his judgment but followed the rules.

AUDITORS are always being told to put your money where your mouth is. So it is good to see Ian Adam, volatile senior partner of Price Waterhouse in Scotland, taking up the post of finance director at Christian Salvessen.

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**JAZZ page 36**  
Cary on, Cleo: the  
mellifluous Miss Laine  
treats the Cafe Royal to  
a superb vocal display

# ARTS

**THEATRE, page 37**  
Paul Merton: great in  
bed, in a sort of sad but  
funny way, in Arthur  
Smith's new play



**CINEMA:** Horror mixed with humanity in a fine film from New Zealand; old favourites get a modern spring-clean

## Sympathy for the devilish

**Geoff Brown hails the rare taste and sensitivity shown by director Petr Jackson in *Heavenly Creatures***

The fusty 1950s newsreel drones on about clean, placid Christchurch, "New Zealand city of the plain". Cut to two screaming, blood-spitting girls, running through woods like the terrified victims of a horror movie. By the end we know the girls themselves have spilt the blood and perpetrated the horror; although one of the multiple merits of *Heavenly Creatures* lies in its avoidance of gore. Instead, we focus on the obsessive friendship that brought Pauline Parker and Juliet Hume to such a pitch.

Like the director is Petr Jackson, his restraint is doubly pleasing, the splatter-movie maestro of *Bad Taste* and *Braindead* has grown up, and wedded his imagination to a script calling for something beyond toilet jokes and decaying heads. Jason deals with a real murder case that made headlines in 1954. In the case of the tabloids, Pauline, quiet and dowdy, and her quick-witted, pretty friend Juliet appear as evil incarnate. But *Heavenly Creatures* never treats them as monsters; using Pauline's diary among other source material, it explores their minds with wonder and sympathy, plotting the course of an intense relationship that traps the girls in their own fantasies.

Ably assisted and extensive use of actual locations give the film a strong spine. With her heavy features and unruly hair, Melanie Lynskey's Pauline suggests another New Zealand rebel, the early Janet Rule. An Angel at My Table. But her imagination cannot fly unaided; she needs the stimulus of Kate Winslet's Juliet, a glamorous live-wire who shows her mettle on her first day at school by correcting the teacher's French. Together, the pair create a private world of princes, princesses, castles and unicorns, whose people share the faces of pin-

**Heavenly Creatures**  
Lumiere, 18, 99 mins  
Imaginative film from splatter maestro Petr Jackson  
**Star Trek: Generations**  
Empire, PG, 117 mins  
New television blood takes the Enterprise onwards  
**Solitaire for 2**  
Warner West End, 15, 107 mins  
Attempt at a British screwball comedy  
**Dallas Doll**  
Metro, 18, 104 mins  
Botched Australian tale of sexual liberation

ups like Mario Lanza and Mel Ferrer, or even Orson Welles, dubbed "the most hideous man alive". To help to penetrate this heady teenage world, Jackson calls on the flair for puppetry and trick work last exercised to far different effect in his odious *Meet the Feebles*. Borovnia, the girls' secret kingdom, is populated by Plasticine figures, while computer morphing techniques bridge the increasingly narrow gap between the girls' dreams and the reality outside their heads. Telling subsidiary roles help the story attain its weight and impact. Sarah Peirse creates a complex portrait of Pauline's mother, an ideal housewife with her own dark shadow, who becomes the focus for the girls' most violent fantasies. Juliet's remote English parents, played by Diana Kent and Clive Merrison, fill another part of the social spectrum. But the film belongs, inevitably, to the girls, the heavenly creatures



Orphan in the making: the matricidal Pauline (Melanie Lynskey) and Juliet (Kate Winslet) let their imaginations run riot in Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures*

who thought themselves beyond mere mortals. Jackson's greatest triumph is to sweep us up into their thoughts, and carry us with the utmost flair through a chain of events bizarre and hilarious, scary and erotic, touching and chilling. "Scotty, keep things together 'til I come back." Fateful words from Captain James T. Kirk (retired) in *Star Trek: Generations*. For William Shatner is blown into space (tastefully, off screen) when the latest state-of-the-art *Enterprise* botches a routine rescue mission. Jump eight decades, and another *Enterprise* patrols the universe, staffed by the stars of the recently concluded television show, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

The man at the bridge is Patrick Stewart's Jean-Luc Picard, lean and bald as a bullet. Roly-poly Kirk, however, will not stay dead, and is conjured up to ease Picard out of a personal crisis and help battle the film's villain, Malcolm McDowell. This meeting of captains may excite

Trekkie fans, but it does not make good drama. For Picard's business-like demeanour makes Shatner's Kirk look more than ever a buffoon. Picard talks straight: "Have warp one, Engage!" Kirk's words come dipped in self-parody: "I take it the odds are against us, and the outlook is grim!" Kirk's presence jars, partly because humour and badinage is otherwise in such short supply. True, the starship contains Brent Spiner's Data, the android who finally wrestles with human emotions following the insertion of the appropriate chip. But, as Picard battles MacDowell's megalomaniac plans to harness some energy ribbons called Nexus — the main business of an over-stuffed plot — straight faces and scientific talk predominate. Probably in any future film with the *Next Generation* crew, the director and writers will kick up their heels and give the characters more room to breathe. David

Carson's current film — awkwardly constructed, a little wordy — is a transitional entry. But with the old crew retired and new co-ordinates set, Paramount's film series should be able to continue flying the galaxy into the next century. After the space opera of *Star Trek*, *Solitaire for 2* brings us crashing down to earth: London traffic wardens, bookshops, restaurants. The National History Museum. A Hampstead front garden. This is the background to the new film by Gary Sinyor, one of the team responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. His colleague Vadim Jean has since veered off into explicit horror with *Beyond Bedlam*. Sinyor, however, has stayed with humour, and fashioned an eccentric romantic comedy that works only in fits and starts. The problem starts with the awkward basic idea. Daniel, the hero, is a lecturer in body language, used to applying his skills at manipulation and behavioural sci-

ence to bed women. Heroine Katie is an archaeologist, unlucky in love and blessed, or cursed, with extra-sensory perception: give her a Tube carriage or a passing waiter, and she can read every thought. Something also went haywire with Dallas Doll, an Australian film by Ann Turner, director of *Celia*, that starts off sturdily but ends up smashed in pieces. Hiring Sandra Bernhard as her star might have been the first mistake. True, Bernhard's prickly persona suits the assigned role of Dallas, the American golfing guru who preaches the gospel of self-help and sexual adventure to friends and neighbours at a Sydney golf club. But she remains a stranded stand-up comedienne, not an actress, and her line readings are oddly flat. Moment by moment, Turner proves she can strike the right offbeat note and paint Aussie suburbia in crazy colours. The film's liberating message is appealing, too. Dallas cheerfully sleeps with all sexes, spreading enlightenment as dead habits are cast aside. But the script increasingly wanders off course, and the climactic arrival of a shoddy-looking UFO leaves the film in complete disarray.

## Not playing by the book

**Do new films of *Little Women* and *Jungle Book* distort the authors' intentions? Michael Church reports**



The new *Little Women* "elucidates what was in embryo"

Taking his notion of a ruined palace inhabited by monkeys, he filled it with treasure, gave pure-hearted Mowgli the key, and pitted the avaricious humans against him. They then had the village elder's daughter fall in love with him. But they also filled the screen with superb animal photography. If the film's nascent came when Mowgli wrestled with a stuffed tiger underwater, its conclusion, with him riding into the sunset on the back of an elephant, left the other humans on their knees before the majesty of the animal kingdom. Kipling's message was intact. Although Stephen Sommers, director of the new *Jungle Book*, denies being influenced by Korda, parallels are close. Here again is the ruined palace, replete with treasure. Here again Mowgli is seen as a sexual threat by human society. "I wanted to make an adven-

Swicord has no time for the feminist critique of Alcott. Some things were put into the book, she says, simply to get it published. "But you also find some very forward-looking things which Louisa managed to slip in as well. I kept asking, what is it she wanted to say, but did not dare?" As Swicord points out, Alcott was writing about herself in Jo, and the portrait reflected her own, painfully unresolved contradictions. She was a fighter for temperance reform and women's suffrage. She admired her father's communistic crusade, although it was this that ran the family into chronic debt. She even forgave him his extraordinary moral prejudice against girls — like her — with dark hair and dark eyes. And she died, a spinster, on the day he was buried. *Little Women*, in Swicord's view, is in some ways a piece of therapy. Alcott gave her fictional father a dignity his real-life exemplar lacked. The one thing she couldn't do, Swicord has done for her. "Louisa had no romantic experience, and she couldn't flesh out a romance for Jo. I had to elucidate what was there in embryo in the book."

In this new version much is also made of Jo's philosopher friends. Swicord and director Gillian Armstrong (best known for directing that proto-feminist Aussie saga *My Brilliant Career*) have drawn heavily on Alcott's own bewitchment by her father's famous friends, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau. So while *The Jungle Book* disappears into the belly of the Hollywood beast, *Little Women* now emerges as a conviction movie, made by women determined to rehabilitate an unjustly maligned author. ● *The Jungle Book* opens next week; *Little Women* on March 17

**RADIO:** The warming Fairest Isle season

## Pull over and listen

I have so far made only passing reference to the Fairest Isle season on Radio 3. Actually it is four seasons rather than one, since this celebration of British music (under the grander overall title of Radio 3 Year of British Music and Culture) lasts until December. Part of my reticence has been caused by a need to fight the suspicion that always arises when people start bombarding me with gifts, especially gifts I enjoy having, even when they come thinly disguised as "publicity material". One of my several mentors in the business of journalism once told me that all gifts should be sent back unless they can be eaten or drunk. But what the hell! I may be cheap, but not so cheap that a book and a CD can buy me off. Mind you, it is a double CD and the book is a very swish little number by the standards of Radio 3, whose cries for attention usually come typed on a sheet of A4. But even if I was not engrossed in listening to it and reading it, I would have to say that Fairest Isle promises to make this an outstanding year for Radio 3. The excuse for this extravaganza is that this is the 90th birthday year of Michael Tippett and the tercentenary of Henry Purcell, which should not be taken to mean that the Fairest Isle is exclusively about the old and the dead. One of the curiosities of British classical music is that it is not much honoured in its own country and, indeed, not all that much played. Mention Elgar and people start recall-

**THE TIMES**



Harmony: the Royal Philharmonic's woodwind section

## Concert tickets for 20p

Go to a concert and you can take a friend for the cost of Britain's greatest newspaper. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) is one of 40 orchestras and ensembles in *The Times* concert ticket offer. At more than 150 concerts in 40 halls all over the country you can take a guest for 20p. The RPO plays regular seasons in London at the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall and tours extensively, earning it the title of Britain's national orchestra. Its president, Yehudi Menuhin, will conduct Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No 5* and Britten's *Violin Concerto* with Ida Haendel at the Barbican on March 3. RPO concerts in the Royal Festival Hall include Radu Lupu playing Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 1*, conducted by Marek Janowski, on March 30 and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducting his own *Stone Lullaby* on May 10. You can also see the RPO in Bristol, Crawley, Leicester, Nottingham and Southend. A full list of concerts available in London was printed on Tuesday and a regional listing will be printed next Tuesday. To book your 20p tickets collect six of the tokens we will be publishing over the next two weeks and then choose your concert. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 20p.





## LONDON

**DEALER'S CHOICE:** Opening night for Patrick Marber, co-writer of numerous Steve Cogan shows, directing his own first play, a comedy about an all-night poker game. National (Gateshead), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2222) Tonight, 7pm. Then Fri, 7.30pm and Sat, 2.30 and 7.30pm. £5

**THE DUCHESS OF MALPLA:** With Juliet Stevenson as the vicar's wife and Simon Russell Beale her scandalous brother, this production by Philip Franklin promises to be electrifying. Greenwich, Greenwich, SE10 (0181-551 7755) Preview begins tonight, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Feb 13. £5

**SPRING LOADED:** Union Dance celebrates the launch of the 1995 Spring Loaded dance season and its own 10th anniversary with its usual exuberant mix of ballet, modern, jazz and "street" moves. Bury Mithras takes over tomorrow with a young, diverse group for another very physical dance piece. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800) Union tonight, 7.45pm; Mithras Fri, Sat, 8.45pm. £5

**VISIONS OF PARADISE:** The LSO Chamber Players conduct Michael Tippett's birthday celebration with a programme chosen to reflect the composer's own varied tastes. The concert is a favourite tonight, with works from Beethoven, Bartók and Copland and a closing choice of Debussy's

**AS YOU LIKE IT:** Cheek by Jowl's all-male Shakespeare, spare, inventive, endearingly funny, with Adrian Lester as a roasting Hotspur. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Feb 11. £5

**THE CHILDREN'S HOUR:** Claire Higgins and Hanne Water as her schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a girl student. Lian Heilman's powerful drama from 1934, directed by Howard Davies.

**THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE:** Nigel Hawthorne plays the disaffected Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-humoured comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love. Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. £5

**DANGEROUS CORNER:** Keith Bealer directs an excellent cast in this psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives. It is never too far from the truth. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-979 1725) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm. Until Mar 11. £5

**PULL MOON:** Jon Sorkin plays the hero of Caryl Phillips' powerful and haunting semi-autobiographical novel, set in the slumland districts of North Wales. Helena Kaul-Hansen's Theatre Cymru production comes to London after a sell-out tour.

**THE LIBERTINE:** Stephen Jeffrey's excellent portrait of the life and times of the rebel Earl of Rochester.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

**SONATA** for flute, viola and harp. Barncroft, SW1 (0171-928 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5

**ELSEWHERE**

**MANCHESTER:** The Hallé Orchestra's audience has a wonderful treat in store this evening. George Benjamin conducts his most recent orchestral work, *Bach's Time*, in a programme that includes *Beethoven's* *Pastorale* and *Messiah* (with *Beethoven's* *Violin Concerto*, the piano soloist in *Beethoven's* *Violin Concerto*, *Frederic Handel*, *Peter Street* (0161-874 1712) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5

**CARLSBURG:** Martin Roscoe joins conductor George Hurst and the BBC Philharmonic tonight for a performance of *Beethoven's* *Piano Concerto No. 2*. The programme also includes a rarely heard *Beethoven* piece, *Beethoven's* *Concerto for the Horn*, and *Beethoven's* *Enigma Variations*. *Beethoven's* *Concerto for the Horn* (01225 25222) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5

**NOTTINGHAM:** The great David Pountney turns his hand from opera when the curtain rises tonight on his

**THEATRE GUIDE**

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

**House full, returns only**  
**Some seats available**  
**Seats at all prices**

In reports with *The Man of Mode* Royal Court, St. James's, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Tonight, 7.30pm.

**LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST:** Jenny Agutter returns to the RSC with new cast for final performance of Ian Judge's pleasurable production.

**Beethoven, Beethoven Centre, EC2 (0171-938 8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. £5**

**MAIMIA I WANT TO SING:** The longest-running off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Dora Troy who here plays her own mother. Cast includes the

**Cambridge, East End, WC2 (0171-494 5041) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Tue and Sat, 2pm. £5**

**A PASTORAL PLOT:** Tanya and her mother, a playwright, saw a picture of her mother's past in the children's book by Valerie Pountney.

**Polka, 540 The Broadway, Wimbledon, Surrey, TW20 0EX (0181-898 8888) Tonight, 2pm and 7pm; Opens Feb 11, 2pm and 5.30pm; until Apr 8. £5**

**IN PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN:** Michael Viner's murder-mystery drama where the victim is the past of the accused (Lucy Tregear) by to her crime into some re-assuring system of cause and

**effect. San Wallace directs**  
**Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633) Preview begins tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Feb 14, until Mar 18. £5**

**LOZORRO - THE MUSICAL:** The masked over-the-top of comic legend returns to his cap in *Kan-Hi's* latest (and last) musical romp.

**Adelphi, Adelphi, W1 (0171-494 5041) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5**

**ON APPROVAL:** Playhouse (0171-938 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5

**THE STABLES:** Playhouse (0171-938 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm. £5

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**EXETER:** Stephen King's gripping tale of obsession, *Milky*, is given further outing to open the Northcott's spring season. Ennys Price and Susan Cunniff are the suspense novelist and his number one fan.

**Northcott, St. David's Road (0392 54853) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. Until Feb 25. £5**

**LONDON GALLERIES**

**Barbican: Impressionism in Britain** (0171-494 5041) ... **British Museum** Egyptian Treasures from British Collections (0171-938 1555)

**Courtyard: Frank Dobson: Sculpture** 1915-1954 (0171-938 2222) ... **Griffin** Cornelia, Furniture Today: Design and Craft (0171-938 2222)

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THEATRE: Merton and Quentin's pyjama gamesmanship; excellent new Juliet; Bennett taken seriously; mystery of man

# Fine romance with no kisses

Benedict Nightingale pans for the nuggets of reality amid the river of laughs in Arthur Smith's new comedy

Virtually the only items of furniture on the Garrick stage are two single beds that sometimes merge to become a large double. The two characters, a man and a woman, spend the entire evening in their nightwear, thinking and talking mainly about sex. Indeed, the play itself begins with the sound of the woman reaching climax. What have we here, a slice of Soho transported down the Charing Cross Road, a tincture of the Paul Raymond empire sprouting just off Leicester Square? Certainly, that seemed to be the hope of one member of the first-night audience, who suddenly yelled "Get yer kit off" during one of the quiet bits.

Well, he was about as wrong as he could be. Had the author been French or Italian or Scandinavian, there might have been all sorts of suggestive carryings-on in that eternal bedroom. But he is Arthur Smith, the most English of names and, on the evidence of his play, one of the most English of temperaments. Sex here is the object of anxiety, frustration, dogged obsession, and a million rueful wisecracks. Its god is less Eros than Tony Hancock and its uniform, even for females, is a pair of striped pyjamas. It does not appear to occur much and, when it does, is not to be much fun; but, again in British style,

it provokes an awful lot of laughter.

After all, what do the orgasmic noises that open Audrey Cooke's production turn out to be? When the curtain finally rises, they are revealed as a jokey attempt by Caroline Quentin's Maria to get the attention of Paul Merton's Cash, who is in bed beside her. It emerges that she sort of loves him, but doesn't really fancy him, and that he has been lying there for a decade without having eaten or ("a bit

our with plenty of post-feminist confidence; but with Smith writing and Merton acting, it is the male ego that is more fully represented.

Cash is 35, unmarried and surer of the prospect of death than of love. Again and again he tries and fails to get Maria into his bed for other than platonic purposes, taking her to a Basil Brush retrospective at the National Film Theatre and a play called *Flowers in the Sink* in a pub-theatre, sending her roses she doesn't want, and writing her love letters of surpassing gloom. His idea of a marriage proposal is to say "I'm not mad, I'm not skint, and I love my mum", and his notion of parenthood is to tell a child: "You have a go: I've tried being alive and now it's your turn."

Merton looks like a mushroom with a hangover. He embodies English fatalism, but without becoming the least bit feeble or soft-centred. We watch him lugubriously reacting to Maria's claim to be celibate, glumly falling in love, and going on holiday with her in a Mediterranean resort "like Loughborough painted white".

Meanwhile, the doleful, self-deprecating quips keep coming, helping us to overlook the play's weaknesses of structure. These mainly occur in what, considering the play is already rushed, seems an unnecessarily rushed denouement. Do Maria and Cash marry, have a child, lose themselves in silly sex-games, get divorced, meet six years later in a rainy London street? What is dream, what is reality, and why?

But maybe such apparent essentials do not matter. What counts is the way the play sees love among the young middle-aged of 1995: as a hilariously unfunny business.

## Live Bed Show Garrick

oddly gone to the loo. It emerges that this is another of his dreams, one in which he comes across as a flummoxed, insecure couch potato.

Smith cuts dreams and monologues into the tale of a relationship that he also sometimes rewinds or fast-forwards, not always to the benefit of clarity, let alone depth. Nevertheless, the result is enormously entertaining. One reason for this is the author's gift for dry, droll dialogue, and another is his leading man's talent for squeezing any residual wetness out of the dry and any hint of cuteness from the droll. Quentin combines wry hum-

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THE eternal problem with this play is finding an actress who convincingly looks a young adolescent — the Nurse reminds Lady Capulet that her daughter is not yet 14 — but who commands the dramatic resources to communicate felt passion. By the time an actress is mature enough to play the role she is too old.

Neil Bartlett's lucid direction — a co-production with the West Yorkshire Playhouse, transferring to Leeds next month — is helped immeasurably by the casting of Emily Woolf, previously best known for her witty and agile solo shows and here performing her first classical role. A head shorter than anyone else in the company, she presents a neat, bright-eyed alertness, unassuming confidence of her beauty and intelligence.

Bartlett opens the play with the closing responses of the Mass, from which Woolf's

## Romeo and Juliet Lyric, Hammersmith

Juliet dutifully returns home, but not without casting a shrewd glance at the loitering males. Yet there is nothing tart about her. She is a normal young girl, obeying



Romeo (Stuart Bunce) and his Juliet (Emily Woolf) in a scene from Neil Bartlett's imaginative production

and disobeying her father's will. She politely partners the stilying wellbred Paris in a few boring dance steps because her father tells her to, although a rave with her cousins is probably more to her taste. But when he comes the odious heavy father, she does not recoil, weep or collapse. You can see in Woolf's

face a gathering resolve to switch off all allegiance to the older generation.

In her wedding-night monologue, one of the rare occasions when Juliet makes liberal use of metaphors — Romeo employs them all the time — Woolf combines gestures of restless anticipation with an almost laughing delivery of the lines. Although in command of herself from the start, her performance firmly charts a progress towards the final self-command, and it is entirely in keeping that she should end her life with the bold thrust of a dagger. I can't recall another Shakespeare heroine who does so. Only in the moments before taking the sleeping potion does Woolf's voice become ragged.

Bartlett sets the play against a dark blue wall on an almost bare stage, where scenes overlap to give a sense of the tragedy's onward rush. As the

lovers walk off to be married, Sebastian Harcombe's Mercutio, although in another part of town, strolls between them. Foreground action is highlighted against events beyond, although I could have done with fewer circuits from Souad Faress's Lady Capulet.

Stuart Bunce emphasises the knife-edge hysteric quality in Romeo, which is there in the lines but would make Juliet's love for him hard to explain were it not that Bunce can bring a tenderness to his expression, notably so in his attempt to befriend Tybalt. David Foxe is an authoritative Friar Laurence, and judicious editing, although reducing the power of Mercutio, has provided an accessible text from which Bartlett creates a streamlined drama and Woolf an auspicious Shakespearean debut.

JEREMY KINGSTON

# Woof a young pup with snap and bite

## Older, but not necessarily wiser

### Getting On West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

SEVERAL years ago now, Prunella Scales played the Queen with aplomb in Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution*. Today, the partnership is back, if not so successfully. Scales, with her husband Timothy West heading the cast, is directing in Leeds, the city where Bennett grew up. She is revising the playwright's second full-length piece.

Set in a stripped pine home in Highgate during the Edward Heath era, *Getting On* provides glimpses into the private lives of a politician — George Oliver — his family and associates. More precisely, here we have the handyman, the wife, the Labour MP and their close friend — Brian Lowther, a gay Conservative. There are occasional appearances from Polly's mildly bohemian mother and George's joint-smoking teenage son. With a serio-comic eye, Ben-

nett scrutinises the upper middle classes; their jumble of left-wing and right-wing values; their marital relations. Affairs and love triangles cross generations, genders and social strata.

Bennett was not amused by the original West End production in 1971. He was banned from rehearsals while the script was, apparently, adjusted to suit the company's preference for laughs over profundity. Scales's staging, bringing Bennett back into the proceedings, accrues seriousness as the evening goes on. Kate Lynn Evans's Polly burns with suppressed grief and frustration as her lover, Geoff, packs his tools and

leaves for Torremolinos. Standing abandoned on the stairs down to the kitchen, she finally explodes as her older husband obliviously holds forth, forever jocularly bombastic.

West's George, also shouted down by his son for his sexually prying assumptions, and by Brian for assuming easy solutions to a case of blackmail and imminent public scandal, slumps on the sofa, weighed down by a growing awareness of people getting on in years and not getting on personally or professionally.

All the same, this isn't Bennett's best work. He has improved with age, as should this production. Though some of Bennett's dialogue is as witty as Noel Coward and makes some strong points about sexual prejudice, the play can border on easy-watching sitcom.

This is partly the fault of the production. Though the programme underlines the unsympathetic nature of George, which was skirted around in 1971, West seems quite as amusing and benign as he is domineering. Evans's Polly lacks a half-dismissive edge in her attitude to the uneducated Geoff.

Hints of intimacy or competitiveness are inadequately pointed. Other performances need toning down and naturalising. There are stiff set speeches, half-directed at the audience. Polly's voluble mother (Paula Jacobs) is over-projecting. Geoff's young working-class lip seems to be permanently curled. But West, saggy and a bit loose at the seams, and a carefully groomed Christopher Strauli, playing Brian, look a perfect pair of MPs.

KATE BASSETT

## All the lonely people

IN THIS play, second prize-winner in a recent Mobil Playwriting Competition, Phyllis Nagy second-guesses her audience, *Jeremy Kingston* writes. We assume she is writing about a woman who walked out of a New York bar and has not been seen since.

The man who left with her has been shown to be seriously weird, even going so far as to boast that his hobby is drowning women in his bath. He will be traced, perhaps, and sure enough a detective arrives at his apartment — one room plus spotless bathroom — just before the interval. He holds out his hands for the arrest, so what is left for the second half?

The play does continue to reveal details of young Sarah Casey's life. She is a travel agent who has never travelled, burdened with a four-tongued mother, an averagely thick boyfriend and a notion that the 1960s hit "Eleanor" was written about her, even though the Turtles recorded it before she was born.

But Nagy's prime concern is with the character of the perp (short for perpetrator), or rather the alleged perp, whose name, Elston Rupp, is as peculiar as his speech habits and who is brought disquietingly to life by Kerry Shale.

## Disappeared Leicester

He is employed at a thrift shop, receiving and selling second-hand clothes. These he sometimes wears, whether or not they fit him, as he wanders around town, hoping to be spoken to, or smiled at, or even noticed. Shale gives him a creepy smile, shifty eyes and a shifty mouth. Asked a question, it is most improbable he will give a direct answer, preferring to fantasise about his non-existent friends, or to take on the personality of former owners of his clothes. One such unfortunate is drawn into the case because Rupp happened to be wearing his tuxedo on the night of the disappearance.

In the early scenes Nagy's dialogue seems to be going nowhere in particular, and is coupled with a fondness for making some characters callously just about calamity. But as her play, in Derek Wax's suspenseful production, draws initially peripheral figures into the foreground, a portrait emerges of a society where carefully constructed boundaries can disappear as abruptly as the dazed and dreamy Sarah.

Alexandra Gilbreath has not quite got the hang of Sarah in her first bar scene, where her drawl and her posture feel wrong, but by the close, when Tim Shortall's set opens up and she steps out into the night, she is registering a mesmerised resolve that is really affecting.

But it is Shale's portrayal of a man whose manner will always frustrate his needs, even if he attains a sort of grace, that will stay in the mind.

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Fairest Isle



Stephen Logan applauds the courage of a maverick whose scholarship deserves to be taken more seriously by academic critics

## Shakespeare is not just for the dons

There is a serious problem with modern literary scholarship, no matter how temperate and traditional. Most of it can be read by few outside the academic audience for which it is designed. This would not matter if English literature consisted entirely of works written in a modern idiom, with a frame of cultural reference like our own. If Shakespeare were as accessible as Martin Amis, say, there would be no need to write books about him. But if anyone will try the experiment of opening their Shakespeare and seeing how many lines they can read at random without feeling lost, it will at once be apparent that time has conferred obscurity as well as dignity on him.

It should be the business of scholarship to create the conditions under which obscure works can be freshly and accurately understood. But, with a few exceptions — John Carey, Norman Stone or Oliver Carey — modern scholars have given up trying to reach a broad, educated public.

The general effect of this is twofold. First, scholarly writing becomes increasingly longwinded, prone to spurious subtlety and remote from popular concerns. Secondly, the educated public, having long since stopped reading works of scholarship, ceases to act as a check on academic provincial-

THE REAL SHAKESPEARE  
Retrieving the Early Years  
1564-1594  
By Eric Sams  
Yale University Press, £19.95

ism. If an error once gets into the scholarly machinery, the scale on which it will be recycled is so vast that it can take a generation or more to get it back out: witness so-called literary theory.

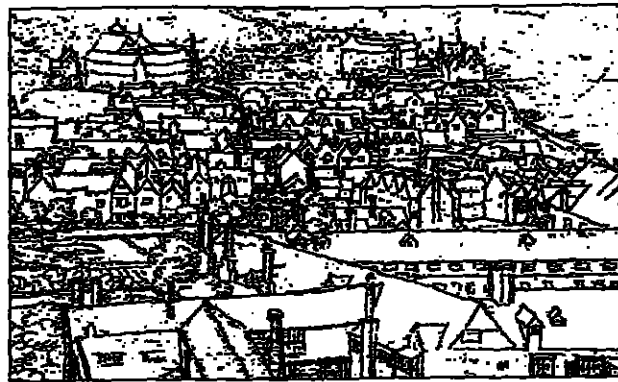
Most scholars are intelligent, humane individuals. Nonetheless, the number of them willing to question academic orthodoxies in a time of job-insecurity and Jacobean nepotism seems small. Inevitably, those who challenge conventional academic wisdom, whether from outraged common sense, democratic zeal, or devotion to high intellectual values, are apt to be dismissed as mavericks.

There are two basic kinds of maverick, the cautious and the impetuous. The former dissents sharply from orthodox academic opinion because, having examined the evidence, he disagrees with the

way it has been interpreted. The latter blusters because he cannot be bothered to examine the evidence closely at all. Since academics are anxious to maintain power within the academy in direct proportion as they lack it outside, both the cautious and the impetuous maverick are unwelcome.

A striking example of this was afforded some years ago when Eric Sams, a civil servant and private scholar, published a polemical edition of the play *Edmund Ironside*. Well-informed laymen, such as Anthony Burgess, were "prepared to accept" Sams's attribution of this play to Shakespeare. Sceptical academics summoned him to joust in the columns of the *Times Literary Supplement*, where he was treated with as much respect as if he had been an unlettered theorist.

But Sams's dissent from the



Southwark in 1647 with the Globe Theatre top left, from *Wenceslas Hollar* by Richard T. Godfrey (Yale, £29.95)

orthodox view was no puerile display of phoney radicalism. He believes that literature is important because of its relation to the rest of experience, and that reading it well is not easy. He believes, moreover, that literary competence is not an academic prerogative and that all good readers should observe the same principles of deduction, discrimination, impartiality and prudence. His fallings-out with the academic world result from the conviction that academic reasoning about

Shakespeare, for all its ingenuity, is based on assumptions that have no currency in the world at large. His new book, *The Real Shakespeare*, is intended to rescue Shakespeare from an unwitting academic conspiracy of misjudgment.

Sams's first gesture of dissent is directed towards the august and unwieldy form of the academic monograph. He writes in a series of 35 short, fact-filled chapters, starting with biographical matters and moving on, in roughly chronological order, to literary ones. The relations between such topics as Shakespeare's schooling, his father's profession, the state of the "memorial reconstruction" is false. This theory (used to explain the corrupt texts in which many of Shakespeare's plays were printed) presupposes that, when stuck for a script, troupes of actors would reconstruct one from memory. In a

concerning the first 30 years of Shakespeare's life. He gives the impression of a man driven by an intelligent love of his subject, eager to get at the truth, and impatient with obstructions.

Defying academic orthodoxy, he contends that Shakespeare's father was an illiterate butcher, who rose by gradual steps to become Mayor of Stratford, then suddenly fell into extreme poverty. He remained throughout his life, despite the threat of religious persecution, a devout Catholic. William Shakespeare helped his father out in the butcher's shop. He had a patchy education, leaving school with an elementary knowledge of Latin and thoroughly acquainted with only four books of the Bible. (His schoolmastering job was no more a measure of intellectual mastery than an Oxbridge MA is now.)

As regards Shakespeare's writings, the most important of Sams's claims is that the theory of "memorial reconstruction" is false. This theory (used to explain the corrupt texts in which many of Shakespeare's plays were printed) presupposes that, when stuck for a script, troupes of actors would reconstruct one from memory. In a

briskly cogent chapter on the 1603 Quarto of *Hamlet*, Sams shows that some of the dodgy passages in the text are much more probably owing to printers' errors or botched authorial revisions. His unwillingness to collude with academics against actors springs from a deep respect for the past. He would sooner trust eyewitness testimony, however informal, than the authority of a consensus.

Sams has his faults and in some quarters they will be used as a pretext for ignoring his virtues. He can be prematurely decisive. He is very occasionally himself relies on corroboration from congenial secondary sources. He will inevitably be charged with naivety by people who assert their sophistication by putting quotes round the second word in the title of Sams's book. Nonetheless, even though he only once mentions Arnold, he is in the great tradition of criticism which attempts to see the object as in itself it really is. He puts the blood back on Shakespeare's hands from a wish to put the plays back into circulation. Sams normalises Shakespeare and the effect is at once to exalt his genius and to explain its popular appeal.

Stephen Logan is a Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

## Critic, curator, teacher, traitor

It is tempting to suppose that Anthony Blunt is the most hated of the Cambridge spies. The unforgivable thing about his treachery was not his hobnobbing with the Royal Family, nor even his apparent lack of remorse after his exposure, but the fact that — unlike the misfit double agent of popular legend — he was an immense success in his chosen field. In the public imagination, it is for his work on Poussin (or Poisson as *The Guardian* had it at the time of his exposure) that he was revered.

With a major Poussin retrospective on offer at the Royal Academy, this is an opportune moment to reissue Blunt's *monumental opus* on the artist, long out of print and hitherto very expensive. The original edition consisted of three sumptuous

he was hailed, to quote Denis Mahon in 1960, as "the leading Poussin specialist of the present time". On the contrary, Mahon himself led the charge in suggesting that Blunt's chronology of Poussin's early period was fundamentally misconceived. In a memoir specially written for this volume, Brian Sewell records his mentor's anguished "I was wrong" in front of the pictures in the 1960 show, and implies that he published what he knew to be less than the whole truth in the big book.

In Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution*, the Blunt character says he got early Poussin wrong, but it is hard to believe that the modified position of 1967 was a conscious lie. In the sometimes acrimonious dispute in the

David Ekserdjian

POUSSIN  
By Anthony Blunt  
Pallas Athene, £24.95  
paperback

*Burlington Magazine* in 1960, Blunt accepted some of Mahon's arguments, but added: "On certain other points, however, I remain impetuous." I, for one, would rather believe him to have been a fool (or at the least a poor connoisseur) than a knave, always assuming that our present sense of Poussin's early development is broadly correct.

More serious by far is the contention of some critics, notably Marc Fumaroli but also our own Malcolm Bull, that Blunt got the philosophy wrong. For it is in the whole presentation of Poussin as a *peintre-philosophe*, and in the crucial chapter on "Poussin and Stoicism" that Blunt made his bid to rival the intellectual seriousness of what might be described as the Warburg

school of art history. And yet, even if elegant — and convincing — demolition jobs teach us to think of a Poussin in sympathy with the Jesuits, or drawing inspiration from Rabelais, the whole edifice remains oddly secure. Blunt may have airbrushed out the sexiness of the early Bacchanals, which Yeats understood so well in "News from the Delphic Oracle", and he may have overestimated the importance of Stoic philosophy in an attempt to make his hero the outsider he felt himself to be, but he wrote a serious book about a serious artist.

What of Blunt's admiration for "the unflinching integrity which was one of Poussin's



*The Massacre of the Innocents*, c.1627-28, from *Nicolas Poussin: 40 Masterpieces* by Pierre Rosenberg and Veronique Damiani (Cassell, £17.99)

most marked characteristics

seen against the backdrop of what most of us would regard as his own world-class duplicity (and even self-delusion in the light of his continued support for the Soviet cause at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact)? It is tempting to talk of Jekyll and Hyde, or an uncanny ability to compartmentalise, but that is not to explain. We all show different sides of ourselves to different people, and it may be that Blunt simply did the same in spades.

What is clear, at any event, is Blunt's poignant understanding of the divided soul of Francesco Borromini, towards the close of his magnificent study of the architect, who

tried to commit suicide by falling on his sword, botched it, and survived just long enough to dictate a confession. With hindsight, it is impossible not to read the passage as a piece of thinly disguised autobiography. "There is in this account of his own suicide something infinitely characteristic of Borromini. To have been under a strain so violent that it drove him to this act of violence — if not of madness — and yet immediately afterwards to be able to dictate such a lucid account of the event, reveals a combination of intense emotional power and rational detachment which are among the qualities which go to make him such a great architect."

## Behold, the head of a martyr

John Morrill

THE REGICIDES  
and the Puritan  
Revolution  
By A.L. Rowse  
Duckworth, £16.99

THE TRIAL and execution of King Charles I is one of the most startling and challenging events in English history. His formal trial in Westminster Hall and his public beheading before a still and incredulous audience (or congregation?) outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall had about it an audacity that still chills or delights according to taste.

It was a good publishing idea to commission a popular, accessible account of those who sat on the High Court of Justice that determined that the King must die, and not a bad one to ask A.L. Rowse to write it. This book comes a few years after his denunciation of civil-war iconoclasm, one reviewer of which, he reminds us, was "a second-rate professor [who] thought it a work of self-indulgence. In other words, a labour of love." Of course, it is a labour of love for Rowse to hate puritans and republicans.

He asks whether "it is because professors today do not enjoy writing their books that professional works are apt to be so dull... They write for their own sub-culture, not for the general public." There is some truth in this assertion. I fear, but those who enjoy writing history for the general public must meditate to that public the work of those who labour at the coalface only to produce books for one audience. More than a decade ago, a Dr A.W. Mackintosh showed that there were not 59 Regicides but 69. There was room for only 59 names on the foot of the death warrant, and so only 59 (two of whom were

not present when the public affirmation was made) signed the warrant. Rowse's study of the 59 signers of the warrant is, then, a work of history that is a little behind the times.

Those members of the general public who are also members of an intellectual ramblers' association will find much to enjoy in this book. Each of the 59 has aspects of his life exposed and commented on, and there are innumerable pleasing diversions. Having told us that Whalley had his horse shot from under him at Dunbar, for example, Rowse goes on to say that "there was an appalling slaughter of horses — one's heart goes out to the poor creatures — in the human idiocy of these wars. So great that, later in the century, there had to be a large import of Arab horses — the Godolphin Arabian and such — to renew the best bloodstock." The logic of this passage might be questioned, but the serendipity certainly cannot be.

In short, this is what one expects from Rowse. It wears great learning lightly, it is vigorously opinionated, and in order to tell simply the truths he has known for so long, he prefers to disregard many of the discoveries of the professional troglodytes. *The Regicides* is vintage Rowse.

## Why we are what we own

The 17th and 18th centuries are crucial in the formation of Western ideas about property. The editors of this massive volume do their best to relate 26 studies of the period to late 20th-century concerns, such as the reintroduction of private property in Eastern Europe. "Every day, reading the newspapers, we are reminded in one way or another how profoundly particular property regimes are expressions of particular political ideologies and how even 'personality' itself is constructed in relation to a particular regime of ownership."

These essays successfully illustrate the multiplicity of property claims in the early modern period. They make nonsense of the simplistic insistence on "absolute" property rights common to both the 18th century and the present decade, in which capitalism is popularly believed to have conquered all.

Robert Gordon's essay, "Paradoxical Property", describes the "persistent tendency to suppress and to deny the collective and collaborative elements, the necessity of mutual dependence, inherent in our common capacities to understand and regulate our social life". But none of the essays

Amy Louise Erickson

EARLY MODERN  
CONCEPTIONS OF  
PROPERTY

Edited by John Brewer  
and Susan Staves  
Routledge, £80

can explain why the idea of absolute ownership has been so important in the Western tradition since around 1700.

The most successful pieces are the more detailed studies. In the area of individual property, essays on contrasting French inheritance practices (Barbara Diefendorf), on attitudes of children other than the heir in English aristocratic families (Susan Staves), and on the personal charity of Lady Spencer (Donna Andrews) are exemplary.

In the area of commerce, discussions of animal breeding and the first cattle in genetic capital (Harriet Rivo) and of the debate over luxury and personal conduct in the London press (James Raven) stand out. An essay on colonial Paraguay (Mario Pastore), in sharp contrast to the otherwise largely English-focused articles, looks at a state uncannily considered by parliamentary considerations struggling to manipulate its peasant population to produce maximum revenue. The one art-historical contribution (David Solkin) considers the property implications of Joseph Wright's painting of the *Air Pump*.

This is a book to be dipped into, and certainly not read from front to back. The initial sections on the theory and ideology of property, though, are too abstruse to appeal to most of us. Talk of "relationality" and "inflecting discursive agendas" might be significant, but it is hard to tell in a language which has precious little meaning now and absolutely none in the 17th or 18th centuries.

Amy Erickson is the author of *Women and Property in Early Modern England* (Routledge).

## Botanical whimsy

Giles Coren

THE ROSE  
CROSSING

By Nicholas Jose  
Hamish Hamilton, £9.99  
paperback original

port of the ostensibly puritan Society of Fellows, and secures a place on a boat bound for the tropics, there to conduct his horticultural experiments, finance his philosophising, and escape the unnatural lust he feels for his adolescent daughter, Rosamund.

Unfortunately for Pople's good intentions, Rosamund stows away on the ship. When her father disguises her as a boy to protect her from the crew, we find ourselves in the Shakespearean netherworld of disguise, androgyny, and disastrous confusion of social and sexual identities. When the Popples are marooned on a tropical island, shades of

Prospero and Miranda lower

tempestuously. Some time later, who should wash up on the shores of the desert island but young Zhu Taizao, Prince of Yong and last legitimate heir of the Ming dynasty. He and his ancient eunuch protector, Lou Lu, have lost their way on a trip to Rome. The result is a meeting of minds and cultures, the creation of a hybrid rose (for Lou Lu, too, is a breeder), loss of innocence and virginity, and rampant sexual jealousy.

The novel's discursive centre is rooted, quite reasonably, in the 17th century. But questions of the nature of sovereignty, authority, and the right of man to interfere with Divine Providence seem strangely inert in a modern novel. In England it is all monarchy versus Parliament, decree versus debate, science versus God. And when a shipboard mutiny generates cries of "the men are the ship"

countered by "the captain is the ship", 17th-century ideas of nationhood are examined in microcosm.

The island becomes a playground for the acting out of similar conflicts of loyalty, but little is added to the prognostications of Shakespeare, Defoe and William Golding in the presentation of social forces at work in the absence of society. Were there the mimicry of a Peter Ackroyd, this might pass for a pastiche period document, but its structure and language are so modern that the novel ends up with a personality crisis as pathological as that of the androgynes, Rosamund and Lou Lu.

THE BOOK'S strength — for it is a solid story deviously untravelling — is its seductive play on the margins of real history. The modern rose is descended from a hybrid, a cross between a European and a Chinese flower, found on an island in the Indian Ocean



An alchemist (1582) from *The Mirror of Alchemy* (British Library, £22.50)

more than 200 years ago. This is the tale of how it might have been born, a fictitious background to botanical truth. Were we told this at the beginning, in a prologue perhaps, the story's historical irony would be weightier, and readers might better understand what Jose is trying to do.

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# Is Bambi carnivorous?

**Ian McIntyre on**  
a portrait of the  
Labour leader,  
who has yet to be  
tested in battle

The Archie Andrews grin is less broad than it was seven months ago. Understandably so — the Rt Hon Anthony Charles Lynton Blair is fast discovering that being leader of the Labour Party is no laughing matter. Harold Wilson told an early biographer it was like driving a stagecoach: "If you rattle along at great speed everybody inside is too exhilarated or too searctic to cause any trouble. But if you stop everybody gets out and argues about where to go next."

Rattling along at speed is easier in government than in opposition. It is now 16 years since Labour sat on the Speaker's right hand. The Liberals had been denied office for just such a political eternity when Lord Rosebery made his "clean slate" speech in 1901; there are in what Blair is telling Labour today echoes of that celebrated warning: "There are men who sit still with the fly-blown phylacteries of obsolete policies bound round their foreheads who do not remember that while they have been mulling their incantations to themselves, the world has been marching and revolving."

Rosebery's patrician detachment was reinforced by his authority as a former Prime Minister. Blair's position is different. Win or lose against the Clause Four near-dethroned, he must then prepare for battle with the Tories. The schedule could be tight, and dangerous for a man who has never been tested as a leader on the hustings, nor seriously roughed up by the tabloids. Jon Sopel quotes a colleague after a bumbling performance by the Conservative Party chairman: "Isn't it amazing how this shambolic lot of fools turn themselves into a ruthless killing machine come an election?"

Sopel's book is part biography, part potted history of Labour. He sketches Blair's school days (his father's housemaster remembers him as "intensely argumentative") and his time at Oxford (he found it "rather stifling", took no part in undergraduate politics and strutted, Jagger-like, in a band called the Ugly Rumours).

In the department of ugly rumours about Blair himself, Sopel



Rite of passage: Tony Blair as the unsuccessful Labour candidate at the Beaconsfield by-election in 1982, with the late John Smith

enters a nil return. The fact that Tony Booth, the "scouse git" in *Till Death Us Do Part*, is his father-in-law is probably worth a few sympathy votes, and his admiration for the Scottish philosopher John Macmurray is a decided advance over Neil Kinnock's devotion to Gramsci. He may yet regret Labour's much-trumpeted network of contacts with the American Democrats, but his personal reputation seems secure. "The trouble with Tony Blair," sighed one Tory minister, "is that he is Bill Clinton with his flies done up!"

When Blair entered Parliament he was slapped on the back by Edward du Cann, who mistook him for one of the Tory horde swept in by their landslide victory. He has come far in those 12 years. His 1983 election address promised that Labour would create two million jobs in five years, scrap Trident and negotiate a withdrawal from the EC — "which has

drained our natural resources and destroyed jobs". The Labour leader is apparently rather sheepish if reminded about this today. Sopel is not entirely convinced by his explanation that it was dashed off by a party worker and that Blair himself never saw the proofs.

**TONY BLAIR**  
The Moderniser  
By Jon Sopel  
Michael Joseph, £15.99

Blair's promotion to Labour's front bench was the most rapid since David Owen's. With the help of a flow of leaked documents from unprincipled civil servants, he did well in battle with Cecil Parkinson over electricity privatisation. Sopel pays close attention to his subject's credentials as a moderniser, or rather to when he actually

became one. He quotes Michael Howard, who reminded him that in the debates on the 1984 Trade Union Act, Blair argued against pre-strike ballots: "The gulf between what he now says were his private thoughts and what he said in public is actually rather significant and important."

Sopel can turn a good phrase — Gerald Kaufman is "a man who could start a fight in an empty room" — but there are more opaque passages, too, as when we read that Labour are "now deliberately placing their policies at the fulcrum of British politics". Occasionally there are signs of hasty writing or slipshod research — he has Blair making "a final peroration" and he credits Harold Wilson with five election victories instead of four. An alert editor should have challenged the meaningless assertion that the presentation of Labour's 1987 election campaign was "an extraordinary success" —

as if that presentation could somehow be divorced from the party's devastating defeat. Sopel paints, in passing, an entertaining picture of Peter Mandelson and his appalling talent for media manipulation. Blair should arrange for him to be offered the modern equivalent of a colonial governorship.

Nor has he eluded the elephant trap of Northern Ireland simply by ditching the republican-sympathising Kevin McNamara. His successor, Mo Mowlam, is best known for her idea that the Queen should do bed and breakfast, and for her "Bimbos for Bambi" initiative during the leadership contest. If the Unionists bring John Major down and Labour goes into an election still saddled with a conference resolution to work for a united Ireland, Tony Blair will find himself turning slowly on the Central Office spit, tastefully garnished with his own modernising credentials.

## Radical star dragged down by sleaze

John Grigg

**THE LOST PRIME MINISTER**  
A Life of Sir Charles Dilke  
By David Nicholls  
Hambledon Press, £25

Barons form an interesting sub-species in our political history. One, Sir Robert Peel, was an important Prime Minister, as well as progenitor of the modern Conservative Party and (through his disciples) of the Liberal Party. There have been radical mavericks such as Sir Francis Burdett in the early 19th century and, more recently, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Oswald Mosley and Sir Richard Acland. On the right two barons in the present century have been regarded as potential prime ministers: Sir Edward Boyle and Sir Keith Joseph (both later ennobled). For a brief period in the 1880s a left-wing Liberal baronet, Sir Charles Dilke, was similarly regarded.

Along with his title Dilke inherited great wealth. Yet he had the industry and drive of a man with his own way to make in the world. In 1868, when he was in his middle twenties, he published a travelogue-cum-political tract, *Greater Britain*, based upon a world tour, which established his reputation. In the same year he was elected MP for his home seat of Chelsea, which he held until 1886. Later he represented the Forest of Dean, from 1892 until his death in 1911.

Though early republicanism (subsequently modified) did him no favours with Queen Victoria and raised doubts about his fitness for office, by 1880, when Gladstone's second ministry was formed, his claims could not be denied and he was appointed Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. He did very well in the job and after two years was promoted to the Cabinet as president of the local government board, in which post he served with equal success. He and his friend Joseph Chamberlain were the twin radical stars of the ministry, and at the time of its fall in 1885 his prospects for the future seemed to many brighter than Chamberlain's.

Unfortunately for him, and perhaps for the country, he had no future in government, because the following year he was cited as co-respondent in the Crawford divorce case. Though he asserted his innocence, and never ceased to maintain it, the outcome of the case was equivocal and his name was never cleared. In those days a politician's career was blighted if he was seen as having broken his own or somebody else's marriage. Otherwise neither the press nor the State concerned itself with his private life. (This was a harsh code, but preferable to the moral confusion and indiscriminate prurience of our own time).

The official life of Dilke, published in 1977, hardly referred to the scandal that ruined his career. In 1988 Roy Jenkins, fated to become another lost prime minister, made amends in his *Sir Charles Dilke: A Victorian Tragedy*, in which six chapters (out of 19) are devoted to the Crawford case. David Nicholls acknowledges his debt to Jenkins, but suggests that his book does less than justice to Dilke's political role, more especially in his later years. Nicholls also has a few new things to say about the Crawford case, to which, however, he gives only two chapters (out of 18).

So far as this is concerned, Nicholls's version agrees in all essentials with Jenkins's. Both show Mrs Crawford's confession, implicating Dilke, to have been a tissue of falsehood, and both offer similar partial explanations of her strange conduct, while remaining ultimately mystified. Both are convinced that Dilke was substantially innocent as charged (by her).



Dilke in Gladstone's footsteps

from his partnership with Dilke, the radical pair being stronger as such than either partner could hope to be on his own.

Nicholls does Dilke a service by drawing attention to his admirable stand against the Aliens Bill in 1904-5, and in general gives a full, fair and most interesting account of his political career. Would he have been the right man to lead the Liberal Party after Gladstone? Certainly he would have been better than Rosebery, but then so would almost anyone else. Compared with Campbell-Bannerman, the next Liberal Prime Minister after Rosebery — who, by the way, disliked him — Dilke had the edge in knowledge and dynamism, but was less in the Liberal mainstream, because his radicalism was combined with a streak of jingoism. (He had much to do with the armed intervention in Egypt in 1882.) He was also, as Nicholls admits, a man of considerable arrogance. In opinion and temperament, he was less suited than Campbell-Bannerman to the task of uniting a party.

Neither man had Chamberlain's panache, but Chamberlain was lost to the Liberal Party through Gladstone's monomaniacal obsession with Irish Home Rule. On this issue Dilke supported Gladstone, though with many reservations. Gladstone was infinitely more to blame than Mrs Crawford for the Liberals' long exile from power at the turn of the century.

John Grigg is a biographer of Lloyd George and author of *The Thomson Years, Volume 6 in The History of The Times*.

## Heave-ho to Novgorod

Anne McElvay

**VOLGA, VOLGA**  
By Lesley Chamberlain  
Picador, £15.99

has since been a subtle observer of the Communist collapse in Eastern Europe, sets off in search of the historical and cultural roots of the Volga in a clapped-out pleasure-boat, named the *Nikolai Chernyshevsky* after a 19th-century Utopian thinker. Endowed with a library containing only his books, it is a nostalgic reminder of Big Soviet Mama's insistence on proselytising her children at every turn. On the deck the prosperous New Russians, treating the journey as a sort of smash-and-grab shopping trip in the provinces, prefer the pirated translations of James Hadley Chase.

The food is awful, the craft barely seaworthy, her shipmates resentful and unenlightening. Even the good souls are distracted by their own painful readjustment to post-Soviet life. Still raw from the wounds of Communism, Russia is ashamed of its state, but unwilling to take advice on its convalescence from outsiders. At one point a woman, tired of the ritual dissection of her country's woes over the dinner table bursts into tears, sobbing like an exhausted, peevish child: "But I love my country."

Chamberlain's prose is spare, at times jerky, but her voice is always original. Combining journalistic skills with careful research and imaginative flair, she extracts the condition of post-Communist Russia from the shell of everyday experience and detects the historical and cultural resonances of the Volga lands, with their stiff Russian merchant towns, former Tatar

feldoms and traces of the "lost peoples" — the Mongols, Germans and Kalmyks who colonized the lower reaches of the plains.

Such riches aside, sailing the Volga can be excruciatingly boring — as I can vouch, having been moored on it for three days one winter in Lenin's birthplace, Simbirsk. But the author puts tedious to good use, by examining the roots and uses of boredom as a defining feature of Russian culture.

By their patience, the people of Russia are great," said Nekrasov, which is looking on the bright side. Chamberlain has the Westerner's impatience with the Slavic cult of suffering. Does Russia produce political upheavals as a form of entertainment, as "the ultimate antidote to political boredom" she muses, recalling the peculiar combination of disinterest and alacrity with which thousands

of Muscovites, oblivious to the danger, hurried to the White House during Boris Yeltsin's 1993 bombardment, to observe the civil strife.

Most importantly, the author never loses sight of the fact that her views of Russia are glimpsed through the veil of Western culture. I was relieved, after a spate of "Russians are just like us" books since 1991, to read one which acknowledged and explored the differences, including the unwelcome feeling of primness which assails foreign observers of the general squalor. Free too of the opposing baggage of Slavophilia, she despairs frankly of the lack of public honesty, the constant shirking of goalsposts, conceptual trickery and "historically unhinged quality" of the country.

The result is a sad, enlightening book about the trauma which underlies Russians' deep love for their homeland. There is a disabling melancholy which no amount of totalitarian engineering could dispel, and which has so far proved immune to the efforts of post-Communist reformers too.

## Mysteries of Islam's birthplace

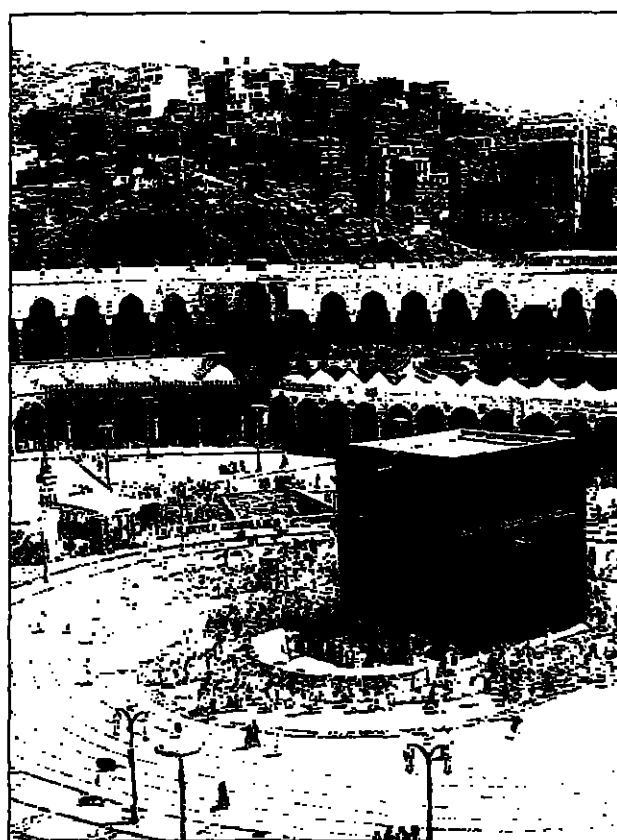
Karen Armstrong

**MECCA**  
A Literary History of the Muslim Holy Land  
By F.E. Peters  
Princeton University Press, £24.95

EUROPEANS have long been fascinated by Mecca and Medina, the two holiest cities of the Islamic world, even though — or, perhaps, because — they have for centuries been closed to non-Muslims. Since the time of the Crusades some have sought to break this taboo, notably the 19th-century travellers John Burckhardt and Richard Burton. Mecca has come to symbolise a place that is held to be supremely sacred or any passionately desired destination. F.E. Peters is well placed to satisfy our curiosity. He has made a lifelong study of the Near East and has written prolifically on Jerusalem, Mecca and

the practice of pilgrimage in the three monotheistic religions. In this history of Mecca, he carefully attempts to separate fact from legend, tracing the city's probable origin as a pagan shrine in the pre-Islamic period and its subsequent position as the centre of the Muslim world.

He dwells particularly on what Westerners would call the profane history of Mecca and gives a valuable overview of the city's political and commercial fortunes until the Arab revolt of 1916 and the foundation of the Saudi dynasty. He quotes so extensively from contemporary sources that the book reads more like an anthology than a chronicle by Peters himself. He points out that, since there has been



The black-draped Ka'ba in Mecca, focal point of Muslim pilgrimages, from *The Mosque* (Thames & Hudson, £36)

virtually no archaeology at Mecca, the historian has to rely on written evidence; yet his scrupulous reticence makes his work rather lifeless. The result is that the reader gains little sense of Mecca's special quality. The city re-

mains as inaccessible as ever. Perhaps this is inevitable, since Peters has presumably not visited it. It could be said that the book is informative rather than illuminating, were it not that basic information seems to have been withheld.

There are crucial questions which Peters, for reasons best known to himself, entirely fails to address.

What, for example, is the significance of the Black Stone set in the wall of the Ka'ba, the shrine at the centre of the Meccan *haram*? What is the meaning of the ancient rite of the *hajj* (pilgrimage) and how have they continued to yield a profound religious experience? Why did the early caliphs forbid non-Muslims to enter their holy land? What place does the holiness of Mecca hold in the lives of Muslims today?

AN IMAGINATIVE discussion of these issues would throw light on the Islamic conception of sacred space, which should surely be the underlying theme of any history of Mecca. Peters may have discussed these matters in his previous books but their absence here remains a serious flaw. It is particularly unfortunate at a time when sensitivity about their holy places has risen to the forefront of the religious consciousness of Jews, Christians, Muslims and Hindus. The preservation of peace in such places as Israel, the occupied territories and India could well depend on a sensitive understanding of the spiritual and psychological importance of sacred geography.

Karen Armstrong's *A History of God* is now available in Mandarin paperback.

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### WEEKEND BOOKS

American obsessions: Hunter S. Thompson's debunking of Clinton: Charles Handy, the latest management guru: chic-simple lifestyles and cynical thrillers



# A display of all that is fine



UNTIL last year, the Fine Art & Antiques Fair was staged biannually, in June and November at Olympia in London. However, in 1994 an extra fair in February was added and was so successful that it is back again this year at Olympia — and somehow the organisers have contrived to make it bigger, better, and even more diverse than before.

The fair is one of the brightest fixtures in the collectors' and antique dealers' calendar. It is the insistence of top quality in the different fields on show that ensures that people may buy with trust and confidence: a panel comprising senior members of the British Antique Dealers' Association, the London and Provincial Dealers Association, individual specialists, museum curators, and academics guarantees the accuracy of all identifications, dates, and provenances.

So what can the visitor to the fair expect? Actually, a display of the finest of a variety of movements and periods. In the field of ceramics, for instance, Gerald Santin will be showing a complete Sevres tea service, c.1885, superbly and seductively painted with portraits of 18th-century beauties of the French Court — against a royal blue background and gorgeously embellished with red and green enamel, within gilt and turquoise frames (£12,500).

By way of contrast, Anita Besson is bringing fine examples of work by 20th-century master potters, Hans Coper and

Last year, a February Fine Art and Antiques Fair was added to those in June and November — and its success meant that this year it is repeated.

Joseph Connolly describes its diversity

Lucie Rie, while Lucy Johnson will be offering a rare Dutch delftware birdcage, c.1730, this most unusual item is generously decorated with embossed florettes. There is also an extremely rare blue-and-white transfer-printed lady's bed chamber pot of 1825, shaped — for reasons best known to its makers, John and William Ridgway — like a bottle: this is from Gillian Neale, at £595.

As ever, some truly fine furniture is being offered, much of it 18th-century. Outstanding is a Queen Anne walnut double-domed bureau cabinet from Brian Rolleston, c.1710, and priced at £26,000. More excellent 18th-century English furniture is being shown by Michael Lipitch (exhibiting at the fair for the first time), including a magnificent bookcase after Chippendale, c.1775, in mahogany with a satinwood inlay (£115,000), and a highly unusual card table, c.1790. This piece — made in yew, and of superb colour — opens into a six-leaf clover shape (£24,000).

Altogether different is an imposing pair of Gothic Revival oak bookcases, c.1870, offered by Peter Farlow at £29,000,

together with a stunning Gothic Revival dresser, made of oak and pine for the 1867 Paris Exhibition. The dresser, known as the Elements Cabinet and attributed to Heaton, Butler and Bayne, is finely carved with profuse Gothic ornament, incorporating 18 painted panels with gold leaf background depicting the elements, the seasons, and English fruits: £35,000.



A DAZZLING selection of jewellery is on show, ranging from a "Charles II" diamond and crystal badge from Edward A. Nowell (these badges were worn by members of the 18th-century Carolean societies — monarchists all) to 1950s and 1960s sapphire rings by Van Cleef & Arpels (inset, left and above: £22,500 and £14,500, respectively) from Harrods. Then there is a very elegant set of gold Fabergé bridge piers, one for each suit. The four are offered at £8,500 by Shapero, who also offer a carved Fabergé duckling, in its original case, at £6,500.

Some elated collector might wish to celebrate his latest acquisition with one of

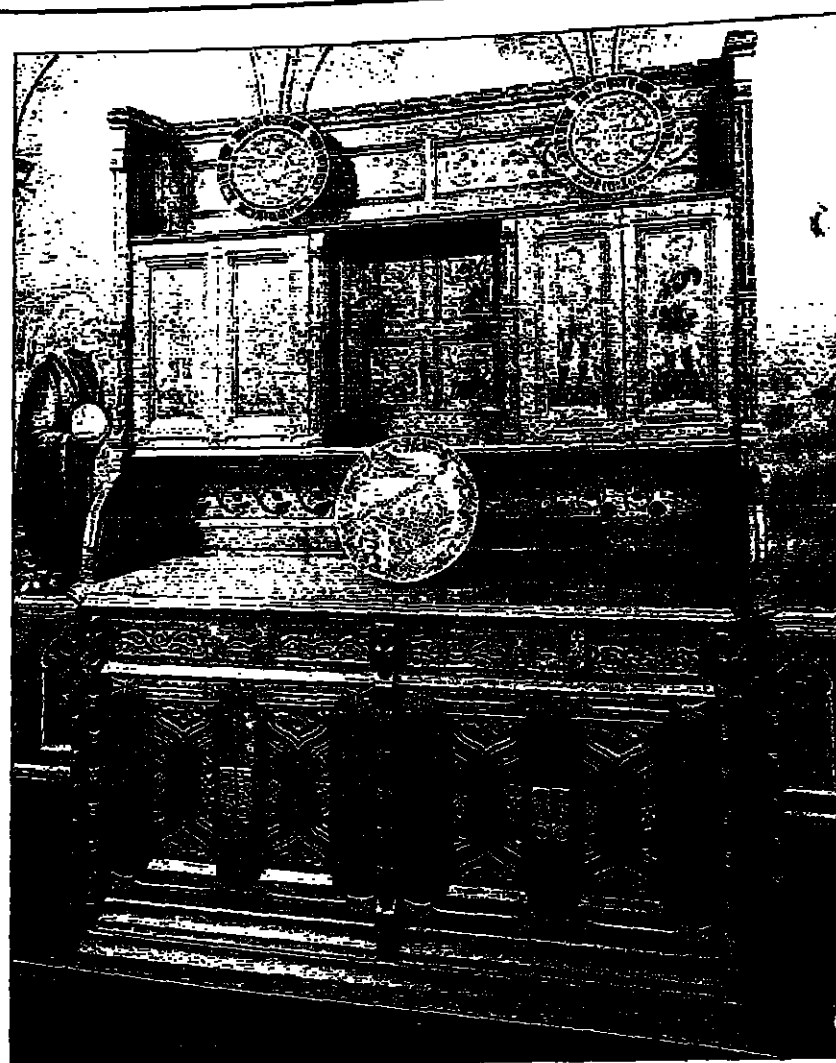
the most singular items on offer this year: a magnum of 1811 Napoleon Cognac — in a two-part moulded bottle with wax seal to cork and complete label: £1,450, from Bacchus Gallery.

The fair last February hosted an exhibition devoted to the life of Jane Austen: this year, carrying on the tradition, there is an opportunity to see a truly fine John Constable exhibition. The centre-piece will be the 45 "Constable/Lucas" mezzotints depicting the English landscape — so called because the mezzotints were based on paintings by Constable and engraved by David Lucas under Constable's close supervision.

In addition there are Constable's letters to his wife and children, and also romantic artefacts: the artist's paintbox and brushes, mahlstick, sketching chair, portfolio, and table easel. The all-encompassing nature of the collection is summed up by the presence of Constable's christening robe, and his death mask: a first-rate exhibition.

Also on show: ten life studies (in pencil and oil), 24 drawings, two portraits in oil, and six water colours — in addition to several works drawn from collectors which have never before been seen or published. Altogether, an excellent Fine Art and Antiques Fair.

● The Fine Art & Antiques Fair is at the Olympia Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5. Opening times: Tuesday, February 14 to Friday, February 17, 11am-5pm. February 18, 11am-6pm; February 19, 11am-5pm. Admission £5.



The Elements Cabinet, 1867, a Gothic Revival dresser valued at £35,000

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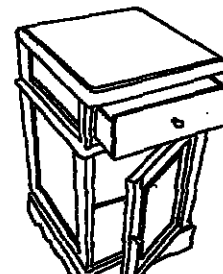
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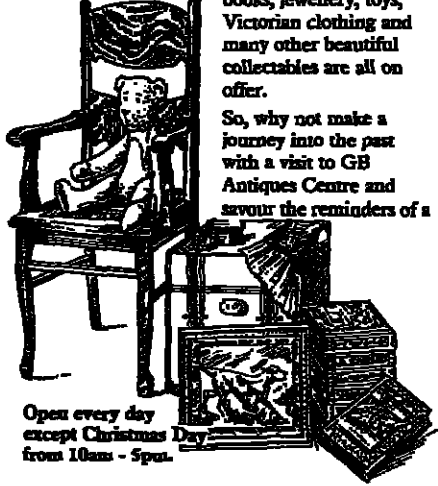
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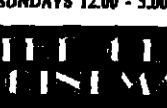
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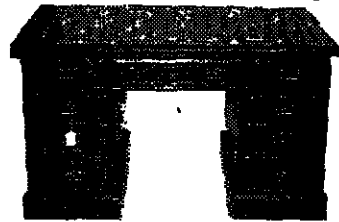
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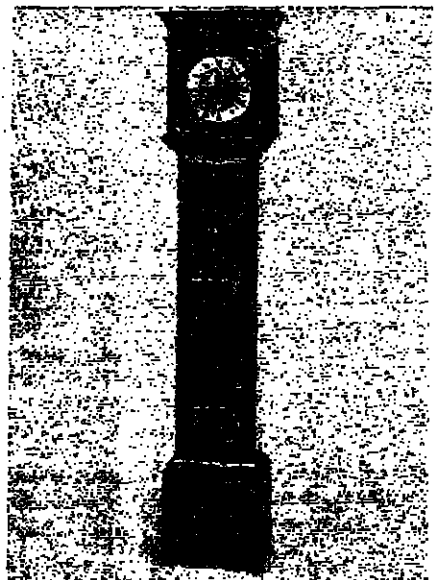
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### SPECIALISTS IN ORNAMENTAL PORCELAIN



'Cockatoo by Luise Scherf for  
Nymphenburg'



Until recently, only connoisseurs collected Republic porcelain. Joseph Connolly on 20th-century treasures



PETER WAIN, the Shropshire-based specialist, is devoting his entire stand at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair to what he claims is the finest collection of early 20th-century Chinese porcelain ever to have come onto the market. The collection is a good mixture of vases, brushpots, plaques and sealpaste boxes. Mr Wain says, "and among them are some of the very best pieces I have ever seen."

## How we can share China's best-kept secret

exhibition of 50 pieces is collectively priced at £100,000, and represents just half the total (the remainder Mr Wain will sell later in the year).

Despite Mr Wain's assurance that there are only about a dozen serious collectors of Republic porcelain in Britain — and maybe only as many as 200 worldwide — he is confident of great interest in this collection, as museums and individuals slowly awake to the potential. "Last May in my shop in the depths of Shropshire, I mounted the very first selling exhibition of Republic porcelain in the UK — and despite the fact that the shop was due to open at 11am, I had people from all over the country — some had flown in from abroad — queuing up at four in the morning. Among them was a representative of one of the few enlightened institutions, the Victoria and Albert Museum: it has a very nice collection now."

Despite the fact that this field of collecting appears to be the best-kept secret of the 20th century, supply of the truly fine pieces is scarce. "The main markets for Republic porcelain

are Hong Kong and Taiwan," Mr Wain says. "The Chinese are very keen to buy back their heritage, and they have a sense of history and an



£890 box with yellow, pink and blue flowers

instinctive feel for quality and so they always buy the best.

"It has to be said that the vast majority of 20th-century Chinese porcelain is simply mass produced

rubbish. Almost all of the pieces in this exhibition will have been made to order — much of it before the Second World War — and always by the very best workshops and painters." The world war itself is just one reason — along with two civil wars, a Japanese invasion and the Cultural Revolution in this most tumultuous century of China's history — why, Mr Wain says, the great kilns have been in operation for only 25 of the past 95 years.

This accounts for why these days — provided the quality is there — nothing can be too modern. According to Mr Wain, the finest master potter now working in China, Zhai Rang, has a four-year waiting-list for his work, and charges between \$5,000 (about £3,200) and \$10,000 for each piece. In the light of this, some of the items of early Republic porcelain for sale at Olympia seem reasonably priced.

A small, circular white sealpaste box, delicately decorated with yellow, pink and blue flowers (pictured) may be had for only £890, while a slightly

larger example — gloriously decorated in a multi-coloured *mille fleur* design — is £860. An elegant, cylindrical brush pot depicting a traditional snow scene, highlighted in enamel and bordered in brilliant blue, is just £980. The finer and rarer pieces, of course, are considerably more expensive: particularly striking is a beautiful "Cu" shaped vase of about 1920 with a perfectly plain overglaze in what is called "cosmetic red" — actually deep raspberry. This — the only undecorated piece in the collection, and all the more stunning for that — is £3,900; other prices range from £980 up to £6,800 for the star of the show. This piece (Mr Wain's own favourite) is a square vase very finely decorated with four exquisite landscape paintings by an unknown artist (pictured, right); quite as fine is a pair of semi-eggshell cylindrical vases (one is inset, left) painted by the artist Xing Fanxian — delicately depicting scenes from the life of the poet Su Shi (£6,700).

"Collectors of the future, will come to see the 20th century as one of the finest and most important in the history of Chinese porcelain. Of course, Ming is perfection, and you cannot improve upon perfection — but the very best Republic porcelain is its equal," Mr Wain says.

Mr Wain will be exhibiting the *Kaynes-Klitz* collection at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair, details on opposite page. A fully-illustrated colour catalogue is available from Peter Wain (01630 647 118) £5 at the fair, £10 including post and package.



Vase with landscape paintings by an unknown artist

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# England to benefit in Uefa Cup bonanza

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOUR English football clubs will take part in the Uefa Cup next season, but the number could increase to as many as six after a football tournament in Europe this summer.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, confirmed yesterday that the Football Association has been allocated three slots — the same as for the present campaign — based on performances during the past five seasons.

And there will be an additional berth because English teams are among the leading three of the fair-play ranking list.

Finally, up to four clubs from the FA Carling Premiership could enter the revived Intertoto Cup, to be played in June and July, and the semi-finalists are each guaranteed a place in the preliminary round of the 1995-96 Uefa Cup.

Italy, France and Germany command four automatic slots in the competition proper, while Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Russia have a basic three along with England.

Scotland is among 13 nations restricted to two representatives while Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have one each.

The International Football Federation's emergency committee was expected to make its decision known today on whether Nigeria should play host to the world youth championship month, a FIFA spokesman said in Zurich yesterday.

Jack Warner, a senior official of FIFA, the world governing body, said in December after inspecting stadiums and facilities in Nigeria that it would be "the eighth wonder of the world" if the championship went ahead as planned, from March 11-26.

But a FIFA spokesman, Keith Cooper, said Warner had completed his final inspection on Tuesday and had now reported back to FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

"His report was without exception positive. That report has been brought to the attention of the emergency committee along with a number of administrative concerns," Cooper said.

"The members of the emergency committee are being asked a simple question: whether they feel that under the circumstances the championships should go ahead," he added.

Cooper declined to release any details about FIFA's "administrative concerns", although he did say security fears were not considered a factor.

Fifa is known, however, to have been concerned about the risk of infectious diseases if the championship went ahead in Nigeria. There have also been doubts raised as to whether Nigerian organisers have fulfilled insurance requirements sought by FIFA.

The seven-strong FIFA emergency committee is chaired by the FIFA president, Joël Havelange. It also includes the African football confederation president, Issa Hayatou, and Lennart Johansson, president of Uefa.

Cooper said Havelange would hold the casting vote if the other six members of the committee were split down the middle on holding the championships in Nigeria.

Roberto Baggio, the Juventus and Italy striker, has set his sights on a return to action later this month after a long lay-off caused by a knee injury.

"I'm very relieved. What I need now are a couple of weeks to get fit again and I hope to play against Sampdoria [on February 26]," Italian newspapers quoted Baggio as saying yesterday.

Baggio has not played for the Italian league leaders, Juventus, since sustaining the injury during their game against Padova on November 27.

Exploratory "keyhole" surgery last week confirmed earlier tests which attributed the pain to a scar on his knee which had yet to heal fully after a previous operation.

Injuries have blighted Baggio's career, the most serious coming in 1985 when he tore cruciate ligaments in the same right knee and was out of the game for nearly two years.

The former European player of the year has since carried out special exercises with weights every day to maintain the muscle tone around the fragile knee.

Stenhousemuir are poised to play their Tenth Scottish Cup fourth-round match against Aberdeen on Saturday, February 18, at home. The Scottish second-division leaders have decided against switching the tie away from their ground.

## British team prepares to take the plunge



The British bobsleigh team of Mark Tout, right, and Lennox Paul concentrate on perfecting their skills as they set out to take the plunge on a practice run in their build-up for the world championships in Winterberg, Germany, on Sunday. Photograph: Heinz Ducklau

## The definitive recipe for a football feast

Kevin McCarra tells the story of Meadowbank, Berwick Rangers and the astonishing Tennents Scottish Cup-tie that had everything

The convolutions of a classic cup contest should cause as much bewilderment as excitement, and by that standard, the Tennents Scottish Cup third-round replay between Berwick Rangers and Meadowbank Thistle at Shielfield Park on Tuesday night was a triumph.

Meadowbank won the match 7-6 in a penalty shoot-out after a 3-3 draw, but completely confused their manager in the process.

When Meadowbank levelled the score with the very last kick of extra time, Michael Lawson was under the impression that Berwick led 4-3. He did not realise that an earlier "goal" by the home team had actually been disallowed for offside. Jim Renton, the club secretary, had, however, been able to keep count and corrected the manager.

Lawson must be forgiven

his lapse at an event where disorientation was mandatory. Even a bald timetable of events is likely to induce delirium:

— 16 minutes: Meadowbank take the lead through Graham.

— 65 minutes: Williamson, of Meadowbank, handles on the goal line and is sent off. Banks misses the penalty.

— 71 minutes: Berwick at last equalise when Irvine converts another penalty.

— 89 minutes: Neil scores for Berwick, who lead 2-1.

— 90 minutes: Bailey equalises for Meadowbank.

— 107 minutes: Hawke scores for Berwick.

— 120 minutes: Meadowbank's Wilson equalises.

again from the penalty spot. — Time for a shoot-out: Ellison, the Meadowbank goalkeeper, saves two penalties and converts one himself, allowing his side to win the sudden-death decider 7-6.

As if the meat of the match were not sufficient, there was also some tasty garnish. The replay was occurring just 24 hours after the first match — a 1-1 draw — because a ground meeting made Shielfield unavailable on last night. All third-round ties had, under a Scottish Football Association (SFA) ruling, to be completed this week to prevent a backlog developing in the competition.

The weariness of everyone involved did not leave

Lawson sufficiently listless, and the referee, taking exception to his touchline behaviour, sent him to the stand late in the match. The Meadowbank manager might have pleaded emotional stress in mitigation. After all, he was once a Berwick player.

"I cannot praise the boys enough for the way they fought, Lawson said, 'especially after going down to ten men. The spirit was unbelievable'.

The incentive for heroism was substantial. Meadowbank, no play Celtic at Hampden Park in the fourth round, for February 18 and should make £60,000 from the match.

This first meeting between the two clubs comes in

Meadowbank's last season of existence. They are about to move from Edinburgh to a new stadium and will be renamed Livingston FC.

Meanwhile, Celtic's dispute with Kilmarnock is proving just as intricate, but far less entertaining, than Meadowbank's victory over Berwick.

The Ayrshire club is seeking compensation for the loss of Tommy Burns, its manager, to Celtic last summer. The matter is due to be dealt with by an independent tribunal set up by the SFA.

Celtic, however, have so far refused to waive their right to legal action should the findings of the arbitration process be unacceptable. The clerk of the tribunal has now written to both clubs in an attempt to resolve the issue.

## Midland forwards agree to sign new contracts

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BARRY FRY, the Birmingham City manager, said yesterday that his Portuguese winger, José Dominguez had "come to his senses" and signed a new 3½-year contract.

Dominguez had at first asked for £3,000 a week but the new contract still represents a healthy increase to around £1,000 a week for a second division player still to complete a full game for the club.

"José was told there would be no more money at this stage and that we would talk again in 18 months," Fry said. "He's an exciting player with tremendous potential and a favourite of the crowd, but he's still got some way to go."

Dominguez's wage will rise to around £1,500 a week if he helps Birmingham to gain promotion this season. Dominguez, signed from Benfica for £160,000 11 months ago, has attracted the interest of Liverpool, Blackburn, Newcastle and Aston Villa.

The Birmingham midfielder George Parris, who is available on a free transfer, is to join Brighton on loan.

Aston Villa have given Dwight Yorke, their Trinidad and Tobago international, a new contract.

Brian Little, the manager, put an end to transfer speculation by offering the 23-year-old player a deal that will keep him at the club until the end of the 1996/97 season.

"In the last two months I have realised that Dwight is a talented young player. I am looking forward to watching this talent develop over the next couple of years," Little said.

Yorke, who has been a regular member of the side for the last nine games, has made more than 100 appearances for Villa, scoring over 30 goals. "I am delighted to have finalised my new contract," he said.

"I now want to concentrate on helping Aston Villa challenge for honours and in doing so establish myself as a regular Premiership player. I have been with the club since 1989 and consider Birmingham to be my home. I had seen press articles linking me with other clubs, but I only ever wanted to stay at Villa Park. I am convinced there are exciting times ahead."

Leyton Orient's longest-serving player has been shown the door after an "unacceptable" display in Tuesday's home defeat by Blackpool.

Defender Terry Howard was told during the half-time interval on his 39th appearance for the club that he was being substituted, given a free transfer — and two weeks' wages.

"He was given the necessary documentation after the match, the joint manager, John Sinton, said.

"Terry has been a very good servant and we are sure he will get another club."

Phil Stant, the former Cardiff City striker, will cost Bury £65,000, a Football League tribunal in Manchester decided yesterday. Cardiff wanted £200,000 for the 32-year-old player, but Bury offered only £30,000.

Bury is Stant's ninth club in nine years. The Bolton-born forward previously played for Hereford, Notts County, Blackpool, Lincoln, Huddersfield, Fulham and Mansfield.

## SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow			
	L	Piste	Off/p	C				
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	40	100	good	heavy	fair	cloud	4	31/1
	(Good skiing on uncrowded pistes; some warm patches)							
Obergurgl	55	130	good	varied	good	fair	-3	4/2
	(Very good sking; high cloud; see forecast)							
Schladming	45	100	good	fair	fair	fair	4	5/2
	(All pistes above 800 metres good; still very warm)							
Söld	40	85	fair	heavy	slushy	fine	5	5/2
	(Still good sking available, south slopes slushy)							
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	190	260	fair	varied	fair	cloud	-1	30/1
	(Pistes inner with cooler temperatures)							
Chamonix	70	530	good	varied	fair	cloud	2	30/1
	(Pistes excellent; off-piste very varied)							
Val d'Isère	125	320	good	varied	good	fair	2	5/2
	(Pistes in good shape, some icy patches)							
Val Thorens	185	310	good	crust	good	cloud	-4	4/2
	(Pistes still good but becoming hard-packed)							
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	75	110	good	varied	fair	fine	1	4/2
	(Hazy sunshine and cooler conditions; firmer pistes)							
Grindelwald	30	150	good	heavy	icy	cloud	4	4/2
	(Good sking on hard-packed snow; some icy patches)							
Mürren	80	170	good	varied	good	fair	3	4/2
	(Very good sking; windy; snow expected soon)							
Wengen	25	100	good	varied	good	cloud	4	4/2
	(Most pistes excellent; lower runs icy first thing)							

Sources: Ski Club of Great Britain; L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

## Break from training pays off for Popov

ALEXANDER POPOV, the Russian swimmer, demonstrated that he remains the man to beat in freestyle sprint events when he won the 50 metres at a World Cup short-course meeting in Saint Vincent, northern Italy, yesterday.

Popov missed the first three of the seven World Cup meetings to continue training in Australia, but his trip to Italy proved worthwhile as he added the 50 metres to his victory in the 100 metres freestyle on Tuesday.

Popov, the winner of gold medals over both distances in the long-course world championships in Rome last September, recorded 22.56sec yesterday. The time was well outside the world record of 21.50sec that he set last year.

Franziska van Almsick, of Germany, made it four wins in two days when she took the 100 and 400 metres freestyle events. With the Chinese and American teams absent, van Almsick had little opposition, winning the 100 metres in 54.20sec and recording 4min 12.28sec over the longer distance.

Van Almsick, the winner of the 200 metres world championship gold in Rome last year, had taken the 200 metres and the 50 metres freestyle on Tuesday.

Chris Renaud, of Canada, edged out Vladimir Selkov, of Russia, in the 50 metres backstroke, but Selkov made amends in the 200 metres, the distance in which he is the long-course world champion.

Antti Kasvio, of Finland, another world champion, took the 800 metres freestyle after winning the 400 metres 24 hours earlier.

## FOR THE RECORD

### FOOTBALL

Tuesday night's late results

FA Cup: Fourth-round replay: Liverpool 1 Burnley 0.

English League Cup: First division: Notts County 1 Bolton 1. Second division: Bradford 2 Bristol Rovers 1.

Scottish League: First division: Dundee United 1 Dundee 1. Second division: Dundee United 1 Dundee 1.

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### BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final: First leg: Sheffield 71, 79, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Second leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Third leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Fourth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Fifth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Sixth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Seventh leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Eighth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Ninth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Tenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Eleventh leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twelfth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Fourteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Fifteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Sixteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Seventeenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Eighteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Nineteenth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twentieth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-first leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-second leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-third leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-fourth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-fifth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-sixth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-seventh leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-eighth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Twenty-ninth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirtieth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-first leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-second leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-third leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-fourth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-fifth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-sixth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-seventh leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-eighth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Thirty-ninth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Fortieth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-first leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-second leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-third leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-fourth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-fifth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-sixth leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.

Forty-seventh leg: B. Watson 62, 73, 79, 156: B. Watson 62, 73.







# Christopher Irvine finds history repeating itself in the Challenge Cup

## Beverley emerge from shadow of 1909

Comets appear more frequently than giant-killing acts in rugby league, and Beverley were tired of being fêted as the first and last amateur side to beat professional opposition in the Challenge Cup. Since 1909, the tag has hung like a millstone around the neck of the National Conference League side. Other than an appearance in the Yorkshire Cup Final two years ago, Beverley have had a barren time.

Yet a cup reputation now precedes the junior Humber-side club again, after its 27-4 dismissal of Highfield in the third round of the Silk Cut competition last month. At the Beverley Town Recreation and Cricket Club—a home shared with cricket, tennis, squash and bowls—a photograph of the heroes of today will soon hang alongside the sepia-printed image of the 1909 side that defeated Ebbw Vale 7-2.

"It's OK being a historical footnote, but, at every away ground, you get fed-up of the programme notes constantly harping back to 1909," John Marston, who helped revive Beverley in 1980 after the club had been defunct for 12 years, said. "I wonder if they'll be referring to this side in 86 years."

If ever a professional side was at risk from history being repeated, it was Highfield. Against the perennial second division losers, the scale of Beverley's away victory was perhaps a greater surprise. Optimism about advancement to the last 16 at the expense of Batley on Sunday is high in the market town.

There are no stands for an anticipated attendance of 3,000, so a fleet of buses will ferry people to the match at Hull's ground at the Boulevard. The eight-mile trip separates the rugby league heartland of Hull from a town steeped in horse racing and rugby union. A lack of tradition for the sport perhaps explains why just four of the side hail from Beverley itself.

## British-based players favoured by France

FRANCE have selected three British-based players in their team to play England in the John Smith's European championship match in Gateshead on Wednesday.

They are Laurent Lucchesse, the Sheffield Eagles three-quarter, who wins his first cap, Daniel Divet, the Featherstone second row forward, and Patrick Entat, the Leeds scrum half. Frederic Banquet, the Featherstone wing, looks set to gain a place on the bench. David Fraissie, the Bradford Northern centre, is out injured.

Ellery Hanley, the England coach, whose side last week lost 18-16 to Wales in the opening championship



Casey, whose coaching has revived memories of giant-killing days gone by, looks forward to the game with Batley on Sunday

a professional club. Financially, the club is thriving, with a 17-strong committee managing a healthy sponsorship, advertising and revenue turnover, and it is spreading the word in an effort to promote more home-grown players, assisting local schools to take up rugby league and operating a thriving junior section.

Since its initial rebirth as a pub team 15 years ago, the club has had a rather nomadic existence. Until 1990, home was Beverley Racecourse. "We used the jockeys' changing-rooms—not satisfactory, really," Marston said. "In 1985, we were down to nine players for one match. Somehow, they [the players] managed to win. I think if they'd lost, we would have packed it in."

Loss of players, such as Len Casey, who joined Hull and made 14 appearances for Great Britain, prompted Beverley's closure 27 years ago. Casey, however, has returned to his sporting roots and, in a third season as coach, has transformed playing fortunes.

"It was a case before of a beer, then the match," Marston said. "Len has them training two or three nights a week." Casey reached Wembley twice with Hull Kingston Rovers, winning in 1980 and losing the following year, but the feat at Highfield was every bit as satisfying. Indeed, it nearly did not happen, as Normanston won the sides' second-round match, but because both had fielded ineligible players, Beverley won the replayed tie and escaped with a 500 fine.

Casey runs a pub near the

Boulevard, but he has rarely set foot there since resigning as coach of Hull after defeat in the 1988 Challenge Cup semi-finals.

He likes the irony of the situation now and that, in Jeff Grayson, from Batley, he will be pitting his coaching wits against a friend and room-mate on the 1979 tour to

Australia — "We'll see if Jeffrey has any wit!"

Under his charge, Casey has a young and mobile pack and invaluable experience in Paul Hunter, the goal-kicking loose forward, and Ray Stead, at full back, another former professional player.

Even though Batley, third in the second division, are a far

different proposition to Highfield, Casey remains upbeat. "It's been done twice, both times by Beverley, and we wouldn't be bothering if we didn't think we could win," he said. "Instead of Wigan, I think everyone will be listening out for our results on Sunday... and we wouldn't mind them in the next round."



The Beverley team of 1900-01 could look forward to making its mark in rugby league

## Oarsmen fight rising tide

By Mike Rosewell

IF ROWING ergometers could be linked to the national grid, electricity prices probably would fall. With the country's rivers generally in a state of alert in the past fortnight, thousands of rowing men, not fortunate enough to have the London Tideway as their home, have been in a state of limbo and pulling untold wattages into non-moveable indoor rowing machines.

It is a difficult time for club coaches. The National Rivers Authority issues warnings about floodwater but does not actually ban rowing. The final

decision lies with the individual club.

The problem is that conditions vary when there is flooding, as does the competency of the crews which might be tempted to go afloat. Some reaches of rivers suffer a lethal stream when the waters rise. Others, well away from weirs with a surrounding flood plain, are probably safer in the winter floods than in the summer, when the same stretch is crowded with fleets of pleasure launches.

Leading British crews are coping in different ways, the

most fortunate being Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, who are training in Australia with Rupert Obholzer and Tim Foster. Peter Haining, the world champion lightweight sculler, is in Hong Kong.

The Boat Race crews, with their annual contest looming, have different problems. Cambridge, who sometimes bewail the boredom of their Fens water, have no problems when it floods. Drainage channels keep their river usable.

Steve Royle, the Oxford rowing director, closed the Isis nearly two weeks ago to all crews, the ban finally being lifted yesterday for first college eights only. This has clearly led to lack of preparation for the Oxford Torpids races, which are only two weeks away. The Oxford Boat Race squad has been rowing at Henley and transferred last weekend to Nottingham for a three-day training stint at the National Watersports Centre.

Other less fortunate national squad oarsmen are having to adapt. Leander have been boating only coxed fours and eights at Henley, and have resorted even to training on bicycles.

Members of the London-based national sculling squad, under Terry O'Neill, the new coach, have been suffering from the influx of upriver crews to the tidal reaches and evacuated to the quieter Docklands course last weekend.

Rowers love the water, but clearly they have been having too much of a good thing.

## Agassi gets back to business

ANDRE AGASSI, the No 1 seed, cruised, but Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, stumbled, before securing victories in the first round of the San Jose Open tennis tournament late on Tuesday.

Agassi, fresh from winning the Australian Open title, reeled off the first eight games on the way to a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil. Chang hit a bumpy patch in the second set before outplaying Marcelo Rios, of Chile, 6-4, 7-5 in a baseline battle.

Agassi, 24, was anxious to get back to business after taking a week off after his victory in Melbourne. "I couldn't wait to get back on court," Agassi, the world No 2 behind Pete Sampras, said; but he was surprised at the way in which he dominated Meligeni, the world No 85, and won in just 53 minutes.

"It's tough to beat anybody 6-0, 6-2," Agassi said after winning 57 of 89 points. Chang displayed a 12mph service and an unrelenting groundstroke game to take the opening set. Yet the world No 6 fell behind 5-2 to Rios, 19, before reeling off the next five games for victory.

In another first round match, Bryan Shelton, of the United States, beat Arnaud Boetsch, of France, the No 4 seed, 6-4, 7-6.

## Ivanisevic falls prey to familiar demons

By Our Sports Staff

GORAN IVANISEVIC is driven by fire as unpredictable as they are, at times, irresistible and, despite his years chasing honours at the highest level of men's tennis, he shows no sign of being able to control them.

Yesterday, when the powerful Croatian took his bow in the first round of the Dubai Open, was a perfect example.

When Ivanisevic broke to lead 3-1 and then took the opening set of his match with Andrea Gaudenzi, of Italy, for the loss of only four points on his service, he seemed on the way to a comfortable victory.

Then, however, Gaudenzi, unseeded and unfancied, saved two break points as the second set got under way, broke to lead 2-0 and Ivanisevic fell prey to his own demons as much as his opponent and slumped to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 defeat. It was, he said afterwards, a "painful encounter".



Ivanisevic erratic

Even in the third set, Ivanisevic had his chances. Gaudenzi broke his service in the opening game and he looked uncomfortable, lost his rhythm and missed too many first services. Then, suddenly, he seemed revitalised and broke back for 3-3—and then, just as suddenly, Ivanisevic lost his way again. Gaudenzi played steadily from the baseline, broke back for a 4-3 lead and Ivanisevic, who had already banged his racket twice in frustration, received a warning for ball abuse in the next game.

The dispirited Croatian won just one more point before sliding to defeat and promptly threatened to pull out of the doubles—where, in a most delicious irony, he is partnering Gaudenzi—claiming that he had aggravated a foot injury. He then changed his mind and decided to play.

"I am disappointed; I've lost my confidence and cannot win a match," Ivanisevic said. "I am fighting too much with myself. After the first set, I was playing like someone was holding a gun to my head. I was too fast and there was no need. I have problems with my foot. I was taking injections during the Davis Cup."

Gaudenzi was delighted with the victory. "I was pretty frustrated after the first set because I thought I had no chance on his service games, but I kept focused and the early break in the second set gave me confidence," he said.

## Shop talk on the cheap

Soundtrack: Two Jolly Swagmen. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

I would not have said Paul and Matthew sound particularly jolly. But as they do refer to themselves as swagmen, half the title's quotation from "Waltzing Matilda" is verbatim apt, though not functionally accurate. There is nothing of the tramp at the bottom end of the market. Cheap run a shop in Sheffield. It is at the bottom end of the market. Cheap goods are their stock in trade, imported mostly from the Far East. By their own admission, some of their stock is absolute rubbish. Soundtrack follows their variable fortunes in the run-up to the spending spree we call Christmas. Most of their kitchen sink spicers are brought by men. Does this tell us something about sexual equality?

I Luv You Jimmy Spud. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

You will instantly detect a special quality about Lee Hall's funny-sad play about a pre-teenage Georgie appointed by Gabriel as a trustee guardian angel. It is a quality that was recognised by the judges who awarded Hall a BBC North bursary award last year. Young Jimmy Spud is played—and unconvincingly well played—by Gareth Brown, whose age probably approximates to that of the lad whose unnatural goodness offends his fractious parents. His testing time comes when his father (Dave Whitaker) is stricken with lung cancer. The supernatural element in this play is handled with humour and a total absence of mawkishness.

Peter Davall

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 6.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright and Howard 8.00 Simon Mayo with God of the Week, Barry Gordon, founder of the Motown label 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Camp-er: The Amazing Spiderman, and at 3.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Newsbeat: The week, 8.30 Drummond of KLF reveals the song that changed his life 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 6.15 News for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 News for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart, including the Accordion Quiz 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedy-er: Betty Marsden (4/7) 7.30 David Allan 8.00 Paul Jones: featuring a session from the American guitarist Duke Robillard and his band 10.00 From Taurine to Tennessee and Back 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden with Night Ride 3.00 Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.35 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, including at 9.40 Film Review, 10.35 Euronews, 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Sports with Mel, including at 12.35pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Ruocco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 Inside in Moscow 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.30pm 7.35 Women on Top 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor 9.05 SportsArts 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial West 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 On At Night, with Richard Dolly

### RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air: Handel (The King shall rejoice); Poulenc (Trois Nocturnes); Rosetti (Horn Concerto in E-flat); Tchaikovsky (Overture: Hamlet); Sarasate (Navarra); Elgar, orch. Gordon Jacob (Organ Sonata) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss (Also Concerto in D; Metamorphosen) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Edward Elgar, Ariel of the Week: John Williams (guitar, Astor Piazzolla (Tango, Varano porteno); 10.05 Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K458); Nigel Westlake (Sute, Antares; John Williams, London Symphony Orchestra under Paul Daniel); Philippe Gaubert (Trois esquisses); Scholes (The Oceanides) 12.00 Ensemble: Paul Lewis, piano, Beethoven (Sonata in C, Op 53, Waldstein); Chopin (Scherzo in E-flat, Op 40) (Mecristo Waltz No 1) (1) 1.00pm Brass Roots: Paul Hindmarsh investigates how the brass band started. With the American Quartet Brass Band and the London Gabriel Brass Ensemble 2.00 School: Radio 3 and A 2.05 In the News 2.25 Something to Think About — Infant Assemblies 2.40 Music Workshop — Music Course 3 Orchestras 3.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC Philharmonic under Gunther Herbig and Sachio Fujika, Yoshinobu (Trombozy for Toki); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat) 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen reviews a revival of Alan Bennett's play, Getting On, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse 4.45 Romantic Season: Short Story — The Amorous Pig, by Jim Crawford 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.58 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The Silencers: Comedy sketches written and performed by Nick Goss and Tim de Jongh 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Soundtrack: Two Jolly Swagmen. See Choice 8.00 Analysis: Electrifying democracy. Could the new interactive technology become the driving force for a more participatory democracy? 8.45 Bloodsport, presented by Jonathan Hewitt 9.00 Does He Talk Sugar? Judy Graham presents the programme for listeners with disabilities 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robt Lister 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Initiate in the Heart, by Laurence Whistler. The Laureate Initiative (1) 11.00 Ten Pounds and a Box of Kippers: Paul Brennan's new comedy-drama series 11.30-12.00 Ad Lib (FM only): Robert Robb talks to practising vets (1) 11.30-12.00 Today in Parliament (LW only) 12.00-1.00am News, inc 12.27 Weather 12.30 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing: Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Rev Stephen Watling 6.30 Today, inc 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day, with Vincent Nichols 7.55 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John White (1) 9.30 Never the Same Again: Jenni Mills talks to families about how they have weathered periods of crisis 10.00-10.30 News in the Red (FM only): The slain instigator of a blackly humorous murder mystery from the novel by Mark Taper, with Michael Williams and Barry Foster 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) (24/25) (1) 10.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only) (24/25) (1) 10.30 Woman's Hour: Dr Lorna Wing tells Jenni Murray how her own daughter's autism led to her pioneering research, inc 11.00 News 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Tasmin Sidiqi 12.05pm Looking Forward to the Past: Paul Bunting, MP, is joined by Frances Edmonds, Chris Kelly, Times columnist Jonathan Meades and Martin Young 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Luv You Jimmy Spud: See Choice 3.00 The Afternoon Shift

**WORDWATCHING**

**Answers from page 45**

**PECULANT**

(a) That practices embezzlement or peculation, an adaptation of the Latin *peculans*, the present participle of *peculāri* to embezzle. "Conveying large sums of money into their own pockets without having to resort to the clumsy methods practised by peculant contractors in the Napoleonic wars."

**POGONION**

(b) Anatomy, the foremost point on the midline of the chin, from the Greek *pōgōn* a beard. "Mandibular length is of particular interest following mandibular osteotomy and it was measured from articulator to pogonion on cephalometric radiographs, using calipers."

**REBAB**

(a) A plucked or bowed stringed instrument of Arabian origin, now in use in North Africa and the Middle East, and among the Islamic populations of the Indian sub-continent, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

**SANSA**

(a) An African musical instrument consisting of a wooden box having at the top tongues of bamboo or iron which the performer vibrates with his thumb and forefingers, an adaptation of the Arabic *sañj*, Persian *sinj* cymbals.

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

White wins with 1. g4, which leaves Black without a good reply. The trap is 1. Rd1, which looks good, but fails to the simple 1... h6, when 2. Rd5 is met by 2... Re1 mate.

20/11/95



# Seems as if it was only yesterday? It was

Who would have guessed that Paula Yates would one day earn a decent living by inviting celebrities to her bed? Well, having been reminded what *The Big Breakfast*'s rumour-mongering used to get up to on *The Tube*, just about everyone I should think.

Appropriately then, last night the producers of *The Legend of the Tube* (Channel 4) invited Yates, together with fellow Tube, Jools Holland, into — or to be strictly accurate — onto a big double bed, to wax nostalgic about the music show that for five years in the 1980s got the weekend off to a noisy and frequently controversial start.

This stumble down musical memory lane was occasionally endearing, as when the pair quipped held hands to reflect on how they became Channel 4's first "husband and wife" presenters, a sort of Anne and Nick to the post-punk

generation. It was also regularly puzzling as they, together with assorted rock stars, flirted dangerously — and with deliberate — with the parody of *This Is Spinal Tap*. Were we supposed to take it seriously? Rather like *The Tube* itself, it was impossible to tell.

But what the programme curiously never was nostalgic, which must be worrying given that it was the launch-pad for a *Best of* season.

It is tempting to say that not enough time has elapsed since *The Tube* burst (self-appointed legends always burst) on to the infant Channel 4 in 1982. But the truth is, despite the words of Paul Young's song (now there was a bit of nostalgia — whatever happened to him?) not enough has changed.

Thirty years have passed, but Jools and Paula remain the same — both in looks and manner. Nor have fashions raced ahead in the way that consigned the early 1970s

to cringe-making history from about 1978 onwards. The cigarette pants and mohair jumpers of Paul Young's backing singers would not raise a fashion-conscious eyebrow in the middle 1990s, while the apply-named Leatherettes, more backward posers than singers to Frankie Goes to Hollywood, would fit snugly into a Sunday supplement piece on S&M imagery. As for the music — cover versions of 1960s hits are currently coming round so fast that it could have been last week.

In fact, only one thing acknowledged the passage of time — hairlines — and even then it was difficult to determine in which direction it was travelling. Sting very definitely had more hair than he does now. Elton John, on the other hand, rather less.

Malcolm Cornie, the producer of the original *Tube*, tried hard, recalling some "quite overweight,

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

yobby Scots guys" they had filmed on a beach. He recalled — shock, horror — that the lead singer was wearing a huge earring — "I'm sure he'd hate to see it now". And what did we cut off? Matt Pellow and Wet Wet Wet — looking pencil slim, positively demure and with an almost invisible earring in Pellow's left ear. Nostalgia just ain't what it used to be.

Accident and emergency, how-

ever, definitely is — which explains why Channel 4 is almost certainly on to a winner with *ER*. Its creator, Michael Crichton, apparently came up with the idea for the hospital drama almost 20 years ago. Maybe it was the arrival of "four incoming wounded" by helicopter early on in last night's episode, but I found myself wondering whether he'd been watching *MA\*SH* at the time.

For like *MA\*SH*, and unlike *Casualty*, *ER* has a rich vein of humour, rather more than last week's plot-exhausting pilot suggested. In fact, last night we had a lobster red man who had fallen asleep in the sun (nothing for the BBC make-up department to worry about there), the sex-mad patient with poison ivy rash on her bottom and what I can only presume was Dr Greene's wife checking that Dr Greene did not have poison ivy rash anywhere near his. Did I forget something?

Oh yes, a mass outbreak of food poisoning, which began with 20 German tourists of improbable stereotype but which quickly spread to 60 similarly disadvantaged wedding guests. The nursing staff of Holy General, strictly rationed to one funny sub-plot per series, would not have been amused.

But like *MA\*SH*, *ER* also knows exactly how to tug on the heart-strings, even with the familiar but still moving storyline of the elderly couple having finally to say goodbye. Gets me every time. Last night, the series walked the fine line between humour and humanity with some skill. But the balancing act doesn't get any easier. Still, with intramural and extra-mural romances bubbling along nicely and Dr Lewis still refusing to do up her white coat, a popular following looks assured.

I dare say *Crime Story: Hot Dog Wars* (ITV) also enjoyed a popular following. But am I alone in wishing it hadn't? There's something about the dramatization of recent violent crime that leaves a nasty taste in the mouth — appropriately, I suppose, given the inedible subject matter, the murder of Gary Thompson, gangland dispenser of burgers and baps to the drunk and disorderly of the Midlands. Dramatisation or glorification — it's a close call.

Along with the nasty taste, the suspicion remains that what the producers get is cheap drama — a ready-made plot and no need for expensive stars or costumes. "Just a car, a driver and a shooter," as one of last night's eloquent band put it.

But the hour was not wholly wasted, as it featured the memorable exhortation: "This is no time to be worrying about hamburgers." I quite agreed — it wasn't.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (22151)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62841460)
- 9.00 Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9369151)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7362440) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (9369151) (s) (9369151)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1254396) 12.05 Paddy McGuire, Sir David Attenborough talks about his television career (s) (2480288) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7552218)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (32489)
- 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (82380267) 1.50 Timekeepers Quiz show. The question-master is Bill Dod (82380403)
- 2.15 Snooker Quarter-final action from the Benson and Hedges Masters, introduced by Dougie Donnelly (s) (461199)
- 3.50 Jackanory. Natalie Ogle with Brian Ball's story Magic on the Tide (s) (246712) 4.00 Robinson Crusoe (Ceefax) (2694373) 4.25 Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway with Steve Knight (s) (4604118) 4.35 Stingers. Last in the comedy series about a young crook. X. With a guest appearance by Geoff Boycott. (Ceefax) (s) (5873625)
- 5.00 Newsround (751080) 5.10 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (9533480)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (442527)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (422)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (542)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (5585)
- 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (285)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital Week from the RSPCA Harrogate Hospital in Harrogate, North London. This week focuses on the work of Barbara Evans, the Emergency Services Supervisor. (Ceefax) (s) (8083)
- 8.30 Down to Earth. Comedy series starring Richard Briers. (Ceefax) (s) (8118)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2538)

## BBC2

- 6.20 Open University: Oceanography (7834181) 6.45 Living With Technology — Food (5324915) 7.35 The Planet Earth: A Scientific Model (2013248)
- 8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (7761712)
- 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil. The guests are Alex Salmond and Dailid Wigley (s) (4354712)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus for children 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2318557) 10.25 Storytime (7114625) 2.00 Stoppit and Tidyup (41826712) 2.05 Puppypop Tales (4182508)
- 2.10 Next with Marti Caine. Series celebrating achievements of the elderly (6115546)
- 2.35 From the Edge. Current affairs series from a disabled perspective. (Ceefax) (7178373)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (8318335)
- 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (3044354)
- 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (915)
- 4.30 Snooker. Benson and Hedges Masters (4126)
- 6.00 Quantum Leap (r). (Ceefax) (s) (950557)
- 6.45 Dance for the Camera: Drip — a Narcissistic Love Story. A dance piece choreographed by Matthew Bourne and performed by Adventures in Motion Pictures (s) (958286)
- 7.00 Waiting for God (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8977)
- 7.30 First Sight: Net Profit. EastEnders Gillian Taylor looks at the state of football in the South East (828). Wales: Dad's Army. East: Master of Fact. Midlands: Midlands Report; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Close Up; West: Close Up West
- 8.00 Metropolis. Series on how technology has shaped the modern city. (Ceefax) (s) (7625)
- 8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld. Motoring in India (s) (9480)
- 9.00 The X Files. Two FBI agents investigate cases involving the paranormal. (Ceefax) (s) (72977)

## CHOICE

- Heroes and Villains: The Last Englishman (BBC1, 9.30pm)
- The series on English eccentrics concludes with Colonel Alfred Witte, soldier, writer and scourge of authority. He met his first in 1963. He is on *Desert Island Discs* and talks so much that the engineers are worried about running out of tape. Then we flash back to the First World War and catch up on the young Witte as a cavalry officer, soon to win the Military Cross. Badly wounded at Mons, he tries to escape from hospital dressed as a nurse. In the Second World War he is captured by the Vichy French and goes on hunger strike. Played with relish by Jim Broadbent, Witte was certainly heroic but hardly a villain, unless you count tying up a lawyer who swindled his sister and taking snuff photographs of him.
- Situation Vacant: Superstore Manager (BBC2, 9.45pm)
- The job application series has a slightly different format this week but the result is no less compelling. Instead of following several hopefuls competing for one job, the film concentrates on two aspirants for management traineeships with the store chain, Toys 'R Us. The requirements are enthusiasm, personality, leadership and the willingness to work up to 100 hours a week. Julie is straight out of university and handicapped by lack of experience. Kashmir has the experience but seems short of oomph. The store manager, who interviews them is only 26. But his abrasive questioning is only the first hurdle on an obstacle course that becomes more challenging.

## CARLTON

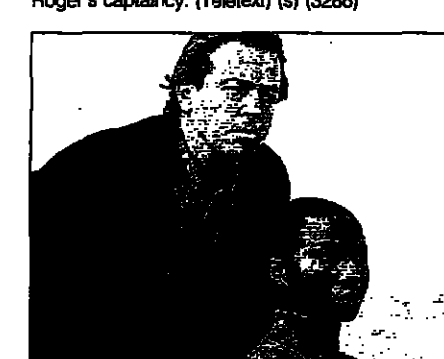
- 6.00am GMTV (1896441)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (4156422) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2395506)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place with John Stapleton (s) (412373)
- 10.35 This Morning (90556083) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1243170)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (412377) 12.55 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (4167396)
- 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (6173422) 1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz talks to women whose husbands are less than perfect. (Teletext) (s) (32274511)
- 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (61147441) 2.50 Gardeners' Diary (9664002)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7623286) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7622557)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (9711170) 3.40 Wizards (r) (s) (3042996) 3.50 Ruptor (r) (7775064) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (2738016) 4.40 Fun House (Teletext) (s) (8255066)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (8814408)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (719488)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' opinions (818267)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (118)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (118)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Nick's night at the cinema is rudely interrupted. (Teletext) (8731)
- 7.30 Survival: Badger Woman. (Teletext) (s) (354)
- 8.00 The Bill: Uncle Bob. When someone makes an official complaint about Bob's swearing, his exemplary record is on the line. (Teletext) (4151)
- 8.30 Outside Edge. Comedy starring Timothy Spall and Brenda Blethyn. A member of the team questions Roger's captivity. (Teletext) (s) (3286)

## CHANNEL 4

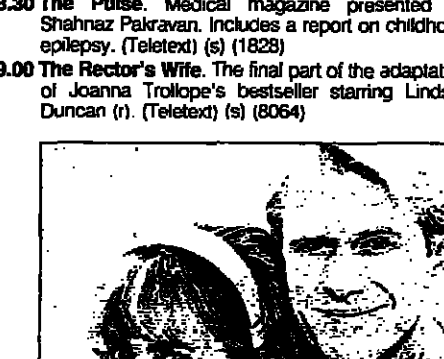
- 6.35 Sandakan. Animated adventures of a pirate prince (r) (8207880)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (15712)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (33083)
- 9.30 Schools. Middle English (5553608) 9.45 The New Living Body (9367915) 10.05 Scientific Eye (2302398) 10.27 Geographical Eye (6155606) 10.50 Your World (6540088) 11.00 History in Action (3547002) 11.20 The R. 21 (33335) 11.40 The German Programme (3425712)
- 12.00 House To House (53847)
- 12.30 Sesame Street with guest Robin Williams (22118)
- 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Animation (r) (s) (8373977)
- 1.50 La Merle. Bird song animation by Norman McLaren (8621560)
- 2.00 FILM: Ten North Frederick (1958, b/w) starring Gary Cooper. A drama about a middle-aged lawyer who has an affair with his estranged daughter's room-mate. With Diane Varsi and Suzy Parker. Directed by Philip Dunne (110793)
- 3.55 From the Horse's Mouth. The second of a five-part series that goes behind-the-scenes of horse racing in Ireland (s) (831070)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (267)
- 5.00 Rick Lake. The studio guests are men who want to propose to women. (Teletext) (s) (7939286)
- 5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (831118)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show. Domestic comedy series starring Bill Cosby (r). (Teletext) (s) (480)
- 6.30 Saved by the Bell: The College Years. American campus comedy. (Teletext) (712)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (952335)
- 7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (507267)
- 8.00 The Number 10 Show. (Teletext) (s) (2793)
- 8.30 The Pulse. Medical magazine presented by Sherrin Pollock. Includes a report on childhood epilepsy. (Teletext) (s) (1828)
- 9.00 The Rector's Wife. The final part of the adaptation of Joanna Trollope's bestseller starring Lindsay Duncan (r). (Teletext) (s) (8064)



Patrick Minford takes economic control (C4, 8.00pm)



Leslie Grantham and Joy Elias-Rhwan (9.00pm)



Stockard Channing and Ed Begley Jr (10.00pm)

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLO As London except 9.55-10.00 Anglo News (2365608) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglo News (1243170) 1.55 The Young Doctors (8237405) 2.55-3.00 Take the High Road (294002) 3.35-3.40 Anglo News and Weather (722557) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (881408) 6.25-6.30 Central News and Weather (826999) 6.55-7.00 Life Line (231089) 10.30-10.40 Central News and Weather (260248) 11.10-11.20 The Best of the Best (155557) 11.20-11.30 The Best of the Best (155557) 11.30-11.40 The Best of the Best (155557) 11.40-11.50 The Best of the Best (155557) 11.50-12.00 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.00-12.10 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.10-12.20 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.20-12.30 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.30-12.40 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.40-12.50 The Best of the Best (155557) 12.50-1.00 The Best of the Best (155557) 1.00-1.10 The Best of the Best (155557) 1.10-1.20 The Best of the Best (155557) 1.20-1.30 The Best of the Best (155557) 1.30-1.40 The Best of the Best (155557) 1.40-1.50 The Best 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## England manager hits back

## Fletcher stands firm in face of tour critics

By SIMON WILDE

WHEN Michael Atherton gave his end-of-tour press conference in Australia on Tuesday, he admitted that he had lacked empathy with his England team. That is unlikely to cost the England cricket captain his job, but it looks increasingly possible that it might cost the England manager his.

The last four months have created confusion and consternation in English cricket, but some of the more clear-cut signals are that Keith Fletcher has lost empathy with the chairman of selectors, the players and — although he never really had it — with the media.

Despite his side's failure to regain the Ashes, there have been plenty of people ready to commend Atherton, including Fletcher, Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, and John Reid, the match referee, but who has been willing to come forward and endorse Fletcher? So far, only Fletcher himself.

Yesterday, he reaffirmed his determination to see out the remainder of his five-year contract, which runs until 1997. "I have not had a rethink about my position at all," he said. "I knew when I took over that it would take at least five years to turn England into a side which won consistently, and I aim to see it through. I don't think this latest loss puts any extra pressure on me and I can see some light at the end of the tunnel."

Fletcher then named several batsmen and bowlers with potential, but one of his problems is that his record of seeing players of potential establish themselves in the England side is poor. On Tuesday, for example, Atherton said that he felt the England team had been treading water since the end of the Caribbean tour, which suggests that Atherton is not looking down the same tunnel.

While Atherton makes plain his advocacy of youth, Fletcher refuses to give ground on the decisions to take Graham Gooch, 41, and Mike Gatting,

37, to Australia, where England proved particularly culpable in the field. "I am not going to say that with hindsight we should not have brought them," Fletcher said. "Hindsight is a brilliant thing, but there was not one person who would have left Graham at home." The prime cause of England's defeat, he said, was a string of injuries and illnesses to leading players — an excuse Atherton has steadfastly refused to make.

The vulnerability of Fletcher

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er's position was most apparent when Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of England's selectors, joined the tour party over Christmas and new year. It was then that the undercurrents of ill-feeling between Fletcher and Illingworth, who had made a scathing reference a few weeks earlier to Fletcher's brief being only the supervision of catching practice, came perilously close to the surface.

Whatever Illingworth may say, Fletcher perceives one of his roles to be the batting coach, but in Australia even this position was undermined. It was possibly no coincidence



Fletcher: defiant

that, while the relationship between manager and players became more remote, the specialist batsmen under-achieved. Even Graham Thorpe, England's leading runmaker in the Tests, could have done better, as he did not make the most of several good starts and recorded a century only in the last Test.

Another reason — and it is an increasingly persuasive one — for the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to buy Fletcher out of his contract is the aura of defeat that surrounds him. Fletcher has become so familiar with defeat — England have lost 15 and won only five of the 26 Test matches since he became manager — that he is rarely positive about their chances, most famously in Adelaide last month, when he stated after the third day that England could not hope to win. Through uncharacteristically enterprising play, they turned the match around and won by 106 runs.

Alan Smith, the TCCB chief executive, said yesterday that, although it is too late for Fletcher's future to be placed on the agenda of its spring meeting next month, if either Illingworth or the counties wanted the manager removed, the means could be found. The problem then would be defining the role of, and choosing, a successor in time for the internationals this year, which start in May.

Reid, who refereed all five of the Ashes Tests and reprimanded Atherton in Adelaide for failing to ensure play was "conducted within the spirit of the game", yesterday praised the England and Australia captains for their overall conduct in the series.

"I am pleased to state that I have found a revival of the traditional spirit of the game in this Ashes series," he said. "They [the captains] responded to the umpires' infrequent requests for them to control their players on the field, and I have had their utmost cooperation in this regard."

## Late goal punctures England challenge



Jason Lee, left, tangles with Lailin Hassan, of Malaysia, during a 1-1 draw in the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday. A goal conceded with minutes to go ended England's hopes of reaching the semi-finals. Photograph: Kamal Kishore. Report, page 45.

## Coppell seeks return to management bearpit

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE COPPELL is ready to end his self-imposed exile from football management almost two years after leaving Crystal Palace. Coppell will step down as the chief executive of the League Managers' Association (LMA) at the end of next month and his decision to return to active club duty will sound the alarm in several Premiership boardrooms.

"Once the bug has bitten you, as I've discovered recently, you stay bitten," Coppell, whose post will go to the former Portsmouth manager, Jim Smith, said. "In the last few weeks I've

been watching games and found myself wondering what I would do if the teams were mine."

The former Manchester United and England winger, whose playing career ended through injury at the age of 28, was in charge at Selhurst Park from 1984-93. He took the club to promotion from the second division in 1989 but resigned when Crystal Palace were relegated in 1993.

Since then, Coppell has been linked constantly with managerial vacancies and the speculation will now intensify. George Graham's future as the Arsenal manager may be in doubt because of a Football

Association investigation into transfer dealings — Coppell is a member of the Premiership inquiry team — the Sheffield Wednesday manager, Trevor Francis, has been linked with a move to Italy and Brian Horton is under pressure at Manchester City because of poor results.

Coppell, 39, confirmed: "I've turned down several attractive offers in the past year. I'm very, very sorry to be leaving the LMA, but I suddenly realised I didn't want to spend the next 20 years wondering if I'd packed up management too early."

Smith, meanwhile, relishes his new challenge after finally

turning his back on management after 27 years at seven clubs. "It's a great life but a tough one and I've had a long but enjoyable stint," he said.

"I'm proud of my achievements including the three-and-a-half years at Portsmouth — an FA Cup semi-final, twice in the play-offs and more than £3million profit in the transfer market."

"But now I'm ready for a new and exciting challenge. Thanks to the hard work done by Steve and the committee, the LMA is able to make a very positive contribution to the game's future. I must make sure it continues to make that contribution."



Coppell: "still bitten"

## Wright ready to step into the breach for Liverpool

Liverpool's disciplinary record has started to wobble at just the wrong time. The red cards picked up by Phil Babb, at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, and Neil Ruddock, against Burnley on Tuesday night, mean that Liverpool will play two vital cup-ties without a key central defender.

Both Babb and Ruddock were sent off for "professional" fouls, bringing down an opponent as he headed for goal with nobody else to bar his path. The offence carries a one-match suspension, and Babb will miss the FA Cup fifth-round tie with Wimbledon at Anfield on February 19.

Ruddock, the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on February 22. Their absences are likely to mean that Mark Wright — hitherto Liverpool's invisible man this season after a dispute last summer with Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and spells nursing Achilles and calf injuries — will be called up as the replacement for his first senior games after an absence from the first team of 11 months.

"I've said all along that I still want to be part of the success at Liverpool," Wright said yesterday. "I'm very near-

ly fully fit, although not yet match-fit. It is very disappointing to lose Babb and Ruddock, because they have been doing very well, as have the whole defence, but I still have a point to prove to the manager."

It was Ruddock's first dismissal for 24 years, and, ironically, came less than a week after he had been held up as an example of a run-bustious defender who had

Peter Ball finds a stark contrast in reactions to the "professional" foul that edged Burnley closer to defeat in the FA Cup on Tuesday

come to terms with new dispensations imposed by FIFA, the world governing body. Jimmy Mullen, the Burnley manager, was not satisfied with a simple sending-off. The use of the word "professional" to describe such a foul has been questioned over the years, but on this occasion, Mullen had no doubt that, with Robinson otherwise free on goal, Liverpool had bene-

fited from the cynicism of Ruddock. "The rules in this country say that, when someone is clean through and someone brings them down, it's an automatic sending off, but that denies you a goal, doesn't it?" Mullen said. "The sending off was poor reward for us, because Robinson would have scored. I'd have put my house on that. It was a clear-cut chance."

Burnley were also unhappy that, minutes earlier, the referee had ignored Robinson's appeals for a penalty as he went down. The two incidents meant that Liverpool survived, but without impressing

anyone, least of all Evans, who was scathing about his side's poor performance. "The main thing about cup-ties is that you get through, and that's fine," Evans said. "But you know, over a period, that if you play that sort of stuff, you won't win many games. We've got to improve, full stop."

"The effort was all right, but the thought which went into it was not good enough. We over-elaborated in everything we did. We've talked about passing, but it's all got to be done with a purpose and not just for the sake of passing."

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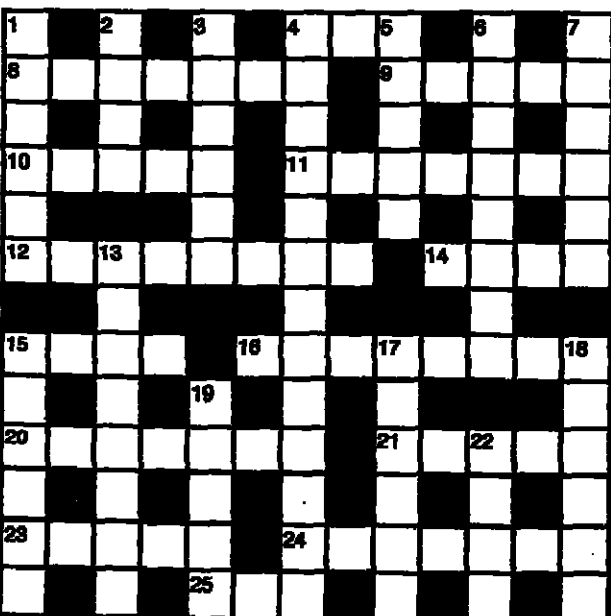
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By Raymond Keene

ACROSS  
4 Maximal; club (3)  
8 Inflict severe pain (7)  
9 One sandwich; several beers (5)  
10 Milk container; agitate (5)  
11 Soothing cough-mixture (7)  
12 Army NCO; policeman (8)  
14 Porridge (4)  
15 Mild desire (4)  
16 (Length of) intervening space (8)  
20 Petroleum source (3,4)  
21 Recess for statue (5)  
23 (Of bad weather) become persistent (3,2)  
24 Productive (7)  
25 Take weight off feet (3)

DOWN  
1 Bright flowers; supplies (6)  
2 Language of Pakistan (4)  
3 Subtle shade of meaning (6)  
4 NATO anti-blockade operation, 1948 (6,7)  
5 Restaurant tip pool (5)  
6 Field sportsman (8)  
7 Thomas —, phonograph inventor (6)  
13 Determined (8)  
15 (Move with) hissing, rushing sound (6)  
17 Treeless permafrost zone (6)  
18 Hole for hook, cord (6)  
19 Wealth; resource (5)  
22 Front of jaw (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 390

ACROSS: 1 Upshot 5 Tickle 8 Loud 9 In no time 10 Wakeful 11 Manor 13 Cost a packet 16 Folly 18 Peopled 21 Of course 22 Glib 23 Prefix 24 Senate

DOWN: 2 Prossie 3 Hedge 4 Tribunal 5 Tang 6 Cut back 7 Limbo 12 Baseless 14 Sold off 15 T S Eliot 17 Offer 19 Pagan 20 Crux



By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Luschowski-Griedner, USSR 1976. White appears to be in trouble due to Black's threats on the long diagonal. However, he has counterchances based on the vulnerability of Black's back rank. Can you see what he played? Be careful — there is a trap in the position.

Solution, page 46  
Raymond Keene, page 8



By Philip Howard

PECULANT  
a. Spotty  
b. With cloven hooves  
c. Embezzling

POGONION  
a. A shallot  
b. The point of the chin  
c. A hypothetical positive ion

REBAB  
a. A stringed instrument  
b. Unpleasant, repellent  
c. To resist from

SANSA  
a. A twanging instrument  
b. A milky health drink  
c. A gymnastic elastic rope

Answers on page 46

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